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**12 March 1980**

# **Near East/North Africa Report**

**No. 2088**

**EGYPT: Opposition Press Coverage**

**February-22 January 1980**



**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE**

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## NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2088

## EGYPT: OPPOSITION PRESS COVERAGE

February-22 January 1980

AL-DA'WAH, Monthly Publication of the Muslim Brotherhood

AL-AHRAR, Weekly Publication of Socialist Liberals Party

AL-SHA'B, Weekly Publication of Socialist Workers Party

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AL-TALMASANI WARNS OF DANGERS OF NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

Cairo AL-DA'WAH in Arabic Feb . 80 pp 4-6

[Article by 'Umar al-Talmasani: "Normalization of Relations and Exchange of Ambassadors; Normalizing Relations With Israel Realizes Its Ambitions and Aspirations"]

[Text] One of the biggest proofs of human friendship lies in having relations among people, both governments and states and peoples and nations, as friendly and as cordial as can be. It is natural for friendship to be reflected in the exchange of ambassadors as a sign of goodwill and of stable harmony among all. These are natural things that need no one to proof their soundness. This is indisputable. So let those who are sharpening their pens to defend the normalizaition of relations between us and Israel and the exchange of ambassadors between the two states spare themselves the trouble of blackening their papers and of hearing their pens screech in defense of this situation. Their words in this respect can be no more than ink on paper or paper splotted with ink. We are aware of all this and we are not contesting or disputing it with anybody. When the normalization of relations and the exchange ambassadors is established on giving everyone his right and on stopping each side where he should be stopped, then we aspire for and defend such normalization and exchange with all our strength and with utter sincerity.

Is the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel and their exchange of ambassadors built on setting matters aright, renouncing greed, abandoning the idea of the greater Israel and disregarding what is between the Tigris and the Euphrates, between al-Sharqiyah and the Nile and between Khaybar and Medina, if possible? Can any one who has read about Israel, who has lived in Israel and who has associated with the Jews find in his heart comfort over the slogans of normalizing relations and exchanging ambassadors between the two states?

Danger of Normalizing Relations With Israel

Normalizing relations with Israel while Israel insists on realizing its ambitions and aspirations is meaningless. Rather, it can only result in

our making it easier for Israel to achieve its ambitions from within our own country and in our enabling it to plant its feet firmly in our economy by opening the doors of our markets for it and by giving its sly and demonic tricks the opportunity to wreak destruction and corruption on our land and to weaken our economy until it can destroy it completely while resting reassured under the canopy of the normalization of relations and of the exchange of ambassadors.

It is not a matter of mistrust or of faulty conclusions on our part. The issue does not require genius or intelligence from us. The Egyptian market, for example, has two merchants--one Jewish and the other Egyptian--in the same business. Let us say it is the grain business. Isn't it natural to have competition in this field--competition to attract clients and to make higher profits through the various means of advertizing and propaganda. Which of the two is more capable, more firmly established and stronger in the advertizing race? The Jew who enters the market only to suck the blood of the Egyptians in the interest of Israel, the Jew whose state supports him with all its resources because his business is not intended for profit solely but also for the creation of the greater Israel, or at least for the preservation of the lesser Israel, and the Jew who is supported by Christianity [al-salibiyah] with its astronomical millions and its superior ability to eliminate the Egyptian merchants in all the markets and in all kinds of trade. Is it the Jew or the Egyptian whose bag is empty of all these vast capabilities? Apply this example to all the commercial markets. The Jews are engaged in the commercial enterprises, both big and small, great and petty, honorable and dishonest. Thus, we find in this regard who profits and who loses from the normalization of relations, who realizes his hopes and who has failed to take the necessary precautions.

#### Israel's Goods Inundiate Our Country

Do you recall a statement made months ago by Butrus Ghali who said that more than 200 Israelis came to Egypt compared to one Egyptian who went to Israel? If you recall this, then remember with it the bitter reality that accompanies it. Israel's goods are inundating all aspects of our markets, at times under Israel's name and at others under other names. Israeli pamphlets, booklets and cassettes are filling our country and I don't think you need anybody to draw your attention to the fact that all, and not some, of them talk falsely at times and unjustifiably at others about Israel's greatness, about the deep roots of the Jews, the chosen people whom God has given the power to rule by themselves the Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and atheist worlds! This is at a time when the same minister stated that obstacles and regulations are set up to obstruct the entry of the Egyptian publications and cassettes, of which only very few enter Israel--the very few which are to Israel's satisfaction and in which Israel finds nothing to harm closely or remotely its feelings and its dreams. This is happening at a time when Israel's publications, even those harming religion, corrupting morals and leading Muslims to the abysses of dissolution, flow into Egypt easily and smoothly.

This is the normalization, or at least one aspect of the normalization, of relations between us and Israel. We are not seeking to instigate or to cause troubles. But it is a rightful word that has to be said whether people like it or not because it is our inevitable duty as Muslims to hold our pen and to say the word of truth and say what we believe is right, regardless of the circumstances and regardless of our relations with people. If good relations prevent a Muslim from saying the rightful word, then they are relations that cannot be described as good and relations that can bear no good. We warn of the dangers of what we are about to embark upon so that those who come after us may not accuse us of failure to say the word of right and of truth and of failure to support them openly and publicly.

#### Alternative That We Offer

Somebody may say: All you have written is well-known and studied but the circumstances are harder than all these facts. So, do you have an alternative? I say that we offered the alternative years ago and all evidence still supports and confirms that alternative. No people who have, after God, relied upon themselves, who have sacrificed all the trivial pleasures of life and who have lived the life of men who sacrifice their lives for the sake of their honor, their rights and their humanity, who depend, after God, on their efforts, patience and struggle and who are determined to live an honorable life or die a great death and no ruler who has led his people from atop such a lofty and honorable peak has failed to achieve what he wants for his nation and what the nation wants for itself. If people decide to live an honorable life in this international community and if such people work seriously and sincerely for this noble goal, then God will strengthen them, answer their supplications, support their efforts and bless their steps. This is what our religion has told us and what long history has taught us. The rule of oppression crushed us and crushing only made us stronger, prouder and more committed. The 23 July 1952 came to lift tyranny and oppression from the people and the 15 May movement came and removed from the backs of the people a hardship that dominated their life for a long time. So, what will we lose if we endure patiently all that afflicts us until we regain our rights in full? Does it behoove us to replace one exploitation by another, one colonization by another and one form of material oppression with another form of material and moral oppression? Never. If we stand fast in the face of life's hardship because we cling to our full rights, then our position in this life will be noble, sublime and precious and God will have for us high places and countless favors to bestow upon us. The future generations will laud our manliness, steadfastness and sacrifice to deliver to them their rights undiminished and without ceding any of these rights to our enemy. This alternative may seem imaginary to some semi-men but it is the reality under which every oppressed people have lived to restore their full rights undiminished. Ask Japan, the Germans, Portugal, Argentina, Chile and others how many long years they have had to stand fast to remove from their backs the rule of oppressive tyrants.



Normalizing the relations with Israel is the most serious cancer that kills all the living cells in our body. This is no slogan because we hate slogans and it is not hatred because the Muslim harbors hatred for nobody. This is not for the sake of embarrassment because we declare before God that we abhor to embarrass people, it is not a challenge because we are the sons of the same people and because it does not behoove any of us to challenge his brother and it is not out of a feeling of superiority over others because we do not presume to be the teachers of the people. But we are the seekers of a right who consult with each other, each alerting his brother to what is good, beneficial and useful.

#### Exchange of Ambassadors Is Catastrophe

As for the exchange of ambassadors between us and Israel, it is the worst of catastrophes and the most painful of tragedies. It means opening the door wide for this malicious octopus which touches nothing without dragging it to the valleys of death. Aren't embassies the centers of spies, of the advocates of sedition, of professional rumormongers and of the smugglers of all that is banned through diplomatic pouches, keeping in mind that an embassy is considered a part of its homeland? This is the case under totally normal conditions and a situation of which no embassy is free. What will this situation be when the embassy is that of Israel--the righteous, good, well-intentioned and pure-hearted Israel that establishes its ethics, dealings, friendship and policy on nothing other than idiotic innocence, total loyalty and intentions that are above all that is harmful or suspicious?

Considering that we have not been able to evade Israel's snakes, spies and sabotage when our soil was banned to Israel, how will we be able to protect ourselves against all this when our land is open to it and when we even to protect its embassy with our soldiers and sons while it is hatching inside its embassy and its consular offices the most atrocious and ugliest acts that one state can perpetrate against another? Will the matter reach the point where we fail to protect ourselves against those who want to destroy us? Will the matter reach the point where we ourselves do to ourselves that which others have not been able to do to us? What has happened to us? Where is our sound thinking and where is our foresight? Has the government forgotten what it announced to its people about the most serious plots and documents in the Hungarian Embassy when not a year has passed since the announcement? Contact between the Israeli Embassy men and unconscionable individuals in the country as a result of the presence of the embassy is something that has its boundless dangers. Israel has no place at present to give shelter to what it wants to protect. But if its embassy is established in Egypt, then Israel will be able to shelter in it whoever it wants for whatever reason it wants while the sheltered rests fully assured that nobody can touch him as long as he is under the protection of Israel. I don't think there is anybody who is not aware of this danger. If the government has accepted this danger, then I think it has done so only to avert dangers which, in the government's estimate, are more frightening than all these perils. But to my mind, this is a totally faulty view. There is nothing more harmful to Egypt, more dangerous to its interests and more ruinous to its rights than the presence of an Israeli embassy in Egypt.

## Israeli Embassy...Center of Plots

Israel's embassy is the center of plots, intrigues, coups and revolutions. Israel cannot be happy with a stable, reassuring, safe and prosperous Egypt because such a situation is in total conflict not only with Israel's interests but also with its very existence. Israel is not only eager to survive but is determined, as Truman said one day, to survive and eager to achieve superiority and domination in the entire area. Israel will not only inject its poisons into Egypt but the presence of its embassy in Cairo is liable to destroy the tranquillity, security and stability of the entire area from one end to the other. Will the government, which will exchange its ambassadors with Israel, accept for its homeland this painful fate and this very dark future? Israel, which has not established an embassy in Egypt yet, is still acting arrogantly behaving like a pampered child, breaking its promises and disavowing all the treaties that it has signed. Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil has stated repeatedly that Israel's action on such or such a matter does not indicate its goodwill, that its persistence in such and such a policy or in such and such action is proof that it does not fulfill and abide by its commitments. If this is our situation with Israel when it has not established its embassy in our homeland yet, then what will this situation be when it establishes its embassy in our homeland? The danger will be greater and uglier. I urge every sincere pen and tongue in Egypt to write and say: We reject the normalization of relations and the exchange of ambassadors. If this is done, then it should be reconsidered and we should avoid its evils with all the means and in all the ways possible. Keeping silent on or condoning this situation has its description on the pages of history and has to be accounted for before God "and each soul is the hostage of what it has earned."

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# EXAMINATION ON TAX ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION METHODS URGED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Jan 80 p 1

[Editorial by Mustafa Kamil Murad: "Taxes and Troubles"]

[Text] It is evident from the budget figures that there is a deficit of 1.1 billion pounds, i.e. the state expenditures exceed the state revenues by a sum equal to this deficit. The budgetary deficit is considered an enormous factor in causing prices to rise. There is no doubt that the government is exerting ceaseless efforts to make up the deficit by increasing the state revenues through the well-known traditional means:

First, moving--i.e. raising--the prices of some commodities, as demonstrated by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil's statement.

Second, raising the taxes. This is something that the government has not done so as to lighten the burden of the citizens.

Third, squeezing the government expenditures to the most suitable level that does not affect the services.

But what is more important than all this is to work for increased production in the spheres of services and commodities. This is considered a fundamental factor in increasing the state revenues. This is in addition to exerting efforts to encourage the private sector savings and to arouse this sector's interest in investment with the various well-known economic means, of which the most important are:

- A. Tax exemptions.
- B. Refunding the tax on re-invested incomes.
- C. Raising the interest rate on savings.
- D. Making loans available to the private sector at a low interest rate.

Here is where the troubles of the taxes [presumably the Tax Agency] and of the citizens begin. The total tax revenues in 1980 will be a little over 3

billion pounds, i.e. a little more than 20 percent the national income (15 billion pounds). This is a low percentage if compared to what the total revenues should be. These revenues should reach 30 percent the national income (4.5 billion pounds), if we take into consideration that the tax on commercial and industrial profits, as well as the profits of the free professions, is no less than 40 percent. The customs taxes exceed 30 percent at the average. It is evident from this that the total tax revenues should not be less than 4 billion pounds or 27 percent the national income.

The natural conclusion that can be reached from these figures is that there is a tax evasion by the taxpayers ranging from 800 million pounds to one billion pounds annually. It is most likely that this evasion falls within the sphere of the taxes on general income, the taxes on free professions, the taxes on commercial and industrial profits and on agricultural investments. The payers of these taxes have not been counted in a careful manner that enables the state to collect its tax dues. It is noticed at the popular level that there is evident hardship as a result of the method of tax collection and tax assessment and linkage. At the governmental level, there is also complaint that reaches the point of suffering at the hands of the tax people in terms of tax linkage, of examination of tax statements and of the failure of many taxpayers to keep organized accounts. Therefore, the matter requires a calm and comprehensive review of the following:

First, the method of counting the taxpayers. The computer should be used in this regard so that every taxpayer may have a tax card in which his income and the taxes he owes annually are recorded. This has not been done so far and we demand that its implementation be expedited throughout the state.

Second, new methods must be devised to link the tax with a fair and accurate system that convinces the taxpayers rather than push them toward tax evasion as a result of the lack of persuasion.

Third, the tax officers should be trained on their functions and the tax laws and decrees must be explained and made fully clear to them.

Last but not least, a constant and organized dialogue between the tax people, the taxpayers and the people's representatives--whether under the dome of the parliament, in the local councils, in the unions or in educational symposiums--is of extreme significance in raising tax awareness and in familiarizing each of the tax people and the taxpayers with one another's problems and with the means to avoid and eliminate these problems. This will be reflected in welfare for the citizens in the form of increased state tax revenues and, consequently, in increased government services and investments in all spheres.



GOVERNMENT SAID FAILING TO IMPLEMENT PARLIAMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Jan 80 p 1

[Article: "Liberal Party Asserts: Government Disregards People's Assembly"]

[Text] The Liberal Party has prepared a memorandum on the government's position vis-a-vis the recommendations of the People's Assembly. The memorandum asserts that the government does not abide by the recommendations made by the Assembly. The party had cited as an example the fulltime service allowance which the People's Assembly has recommended for professionals. The government promised to implement the recommendation and then backed down, being content with giving the allowance to those working in the public sector's legal departments and to veterinarians. The government had also given the allowance to agricultural engineers and then terminated it.

The party has cited another example in the form of law No 83. The rules for the implementation of this law were drafted by a special committee headed by the People's Assembly deputy speaker.

The committee submitted a detailed report on the means of applying law No 83 to people with various qualifications. The government promised to implement the report and then backed down on its promise until President al-Sadat announced application of the law this year. However, the government is still procrastinating in its application.

The Liberal Party's memorandum also says that the government has come to believe that the cost of living allowance can replace the fulltime service allowance for professionals and replace law No 83 for the civil servants. The memorandum draws the government's attention to the fact that the cost of living allowance is totally different from the fulltime service allowance and law No 83. The cost of living allowance has been given to offset the rise in prices whereas the rules of fulltime service allowance and law No 83 are connected with the worker cadres and with the system of wages.

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GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS CONSIDERED INADEQUATE

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Jan 80 p 5

[Article: "Ministers and Deputies Fled and Empty Seats Approved Report of Flood Victims Committee; Aswan: 2,119 Houses Collapse, 14,000 Citizens Displaced, More Than 472,000 Pounds in Losses and More Than One Family in One Tent; Qina: 8,400 Houses Collapse, 38,000 People Displaced, 21 Deaths, Losses More Than One Half Million Pounds and Citizens Now Live in Open; Sawhaj: 1,799 Houses Collapse, 13,000 People Displaced, 11 Deaths, Losses in Thousands of Pounds and One Blanket for Every Two Persons"]

[Text] The ministers and the deputies fled and the People's Assembly dais was able to "pass" the most serious report without debate even though the report is connected with what the government had offered the flood victims in the afflicted villages of Sawhaj, Qina, Aswan and the Red Sea. The question that persisted on the lips of all continued to be: Has the government fulfilled its commitments or has it, as usual, released balloons in the air while the situation remains unchanged?

The answer has been that little of the statements made has been implemented. This is what has been asserted by the deputies of Upper Egypt who have lived with the problem. The members of the special committee, formed by the Assembly under the chairmanship of Hasan Waziri, who have lived among the victims for a full week and who have emerged with a poor impression have asserted the same thing. Winter has come and the government is still content with promises. Moreover, the government has been behind the postponement for more than 3 weeks of the debate on this issue at the parliament for a very simple reason, namely that the government wants to debate the report only after it has done something worth noting.

Though the government and the dais succeeded in pulling off this complete theatrical, what has been said at the meeting of the committees of social affairs, local government, agriculture and housing had not been expected by anybody. This is why the government saw it fit to escape the only solution so as to avoid embarrassment.

## Beginning of Debates

The first speaker of the committee was its chairman Hasan Waziri who said: The traces of the floods are still visible in Adfu and Kawm Ambu where the floods have destroyed more than 1,000 houses. The families are still suffering, especially since the October floods destroyed whatever houses had been left in the afflicted villages.

He added: The committee has lived long hours among the ruins in which the victims are still living to reach the most serious report presented to the Assembly. Perhaps some of the main reasons behind the occurrence of this tragedy are the failure to dredge the flood water drainage canal in Aswan, the absence of a meteorological station in the area, the inadequacy of the local resources to deal with the floods, the shortage in rescue resources and equipment and the lack of alternate railroad lines--a fact which led to the isolation of the afflicted area.

## Two Families in One Tent

Waziri added: The tragedy in Aswan reached the point where every two families have had to live in one tent. Because of the traditions of Upper Egypt, some of the families have had to live in tents made of reeds. Despite what has been said about the distribution of aid, what was given in aid to the families throughout 3 weeks did not exceed 4 pounds per person and a very modest quantity of in-kind aid.

In Qina, the governor was surprised on the day of the catastrophe to find out that the shelter's storehouse did not contain more than 25 cents whereas the number of those affected by the floods was 37,627 persons.

In Sawhaj, the floods affected 13,000 people. There, they were able to provide one blanket for every two persons.

## What Has Government Done?

Deputy William Sayfayn asks: What has the government done even though such flooding has occurred four times between 1945 and 1979? Why do we bury our heads in the sand like ostriches and raise them to look for solutions only when a catastrophe occurs?

Deputy Mahmud al-Farran says: We must all admit that there has been negligence. This is enough. We must seek immediate and quick solutions to rescue the inhabitants.

'Aqilah al-Samma' says: We have not prepared the scientific plan necessary to deal with this danger. Are we going to wait until another catastrophe occurs? She proposes that a fee be collected from entertainment parties and at the airport for a certain period to aid the flood victims.

## Cancelling Debts

'Adli 'Abd-al-Shahid says: The meaning of what has just been said is that all that Minister Sulayman Mutawalli had said about the aid advanced by the government to the victims has not actually happened. What we have heard is fearful and the situation must be faced quickly and decisively.

Hasan al-Jamal says: In view of this situation, it is surprising that the government agencies are deducting a part of the cash aid, which has not exceeded 4 pounds, for the flour and rice that these agencies had given the citizens to enable them to face their hard living conditions. The government then turns around and says that it has given everything.

Deputy 'Ali al-Jarihi demands that the debts and loans due to be paid by the farmers in the afflicted areas be abolished so as to lighten their hardships and so that the government may demonstrate its sincere intentions to protect these people.

## Compulsory Fees

Government representative Amin Ibrahim, the undersecretary of social affairs, says that after the May floods a sum of 500,000 pounds was allocated for the ministry to bolster the main storehouses in the governorates and that 1,700 tents and 60,000 blankets were purchased. He attributes this failure to the financial allocations.

Dr. Mahmud Mahjub again demands that compulsory fees be imposed on all the investing [sic] authorities, such as the customs.

Deputy Amal 'Abd-al-Karim proposes the collection of donations from the tourism companies in Luxor and Aswan.

## Report Says...

But what does the report, which has not been published yet, say?

The floods have hit 2,119 houses in Aswan Governorate, in addition to a number of associations, schools and local service installations in the provincial centers of Adfu, Aswan, Kawm Ambu and Nasr and victimized 2,728 families comprising 13,984 members. More than 3,231 feddans valued at more than 471,550 pounds have been damaged.

With the tents at its disposal and with the reinforcements it received, the governorate has not been able to meet the citizens' needs for shelter and this has caused more than one family to share one tent. Some families have been compelled to stay among the ruins or to build shacks of reed.

In Qina, the floods have caused the collapse of 8,400 houses and have afflicted 8,864 families comprising 37,627 members. The floods have also caused 21 deaths there. The value of losses in livestock and domestic



animals has amounted to 117,188 pounds and of losses in the rural and health units sector 47,000 pounds. A total of 5,117 feddans cultivated with sugarcane and 2,962 feddans cultivated with other crops have been damaged. Moreover, the damage caused to the waterlines supplying seven population centers has been estimated at 46,255 pounds.

What is surprising is that at the time the catastrophe occurred, the governorate had only 25 tents in its storehouses and that all it could acquire was 450 tents. So most of the citizens have had to live among the ruins and in reed shacks.

In Sawhaj, the floods have destroyed 1,799 houses, afflicting 2,449 families comprised of 12,215 members. There have been 11 deaths there. Only 155 tents have been distributed for shelters and a total of 6,381 blankets have also been distributed, i.e. at the rate of one blanket for 2 persons. Moreover, 12,500 meters of (castor) [popular Egyptian cloth] have also been distributed, i.e. at a rate of two pieces of cloth per family.

This is what has actually happened even though the government has refused to admit it or even to discuss it in the People's Assembly. The ministers fled one after the other and the deputies' attempts to postpone debates on the report until the ministers concerned attend failed. The dais insisted on the debate when the hall was almost empty. Only three deputies were content to speak. The empty seats approved the report and the session chairman announced that the recommendations will be referred to the government for implementation.

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## EGYPT

### LIBERAL PARTY REPLY OUTLINES POLICIES, DEMANDS

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 14 Jan 80 p 5

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd-al-Maqsud: "Liberal Party Demands Clear Wage Policy That Keeps Up Pace With Inflation; Mustafa Kamil Murad: Afghanistan Events Beginning of Exportation of Communist Coups"]

[Text] In its weekly meeting last Monday, the Liberal Party General Secretariat reviewed the reply to the government statement prepared by the party. The reply will be delivered to the People's Assembly by Liberal deputies Ilfat Kamil and Muhammad Mahmud Isma'il. The reply includes the People's Assembly report [not further specified] as a document.

The General Secretariat also decided to hold a joint meeting between the party's Political Bureau and the provincial party chairmen on 28 January 1980.

The Liberal Party's reply to the government statement is within the framework of the party's general policy and is clear, simple and based on figures.

The reply notes the points of disagreement between the party's view and the government's view in the sphere of services and production.

The reply also contains a number of brief answers, some connected with the issue of customs fees, that should not exceed 100 percent on imported commodities, and others connected with drafting an agricultural policy that yields a profitable revenue to the farmer so that he may devote greater attention to cultivation and production and with drafting a clear wage policy that keeps up with inflation.

The party has also demanded the adoption of a sound currency policy by establishing a commercial market to set the real price of the Egyptian pound in order to attract the savings of Egyptians working abroad toward investment and to curtail the phenomenon of open drawing from the banks so as to reduce the inflation rate. The party has further demanded a policy to provide a house for every new family and a shelter for every family whose house is destroyed. Furthermore, the reply devotes attention to the means of exploiting Egypt's tourism potentials in a well-studied scientific manner that turns in the best yield possible and helps to reduce the deficit in the balance of payments.

## Aggression Against Afghanistan

The General Secretariat then moved to discuss the most important domestic and external political and economic events. The party condemned strongly the Soviet aggression against the fraternal Muslim Afghanistan which is in violation of the U.N. charter and of human rights. The party urged all free peoples of the world and the Islamic peoples in particular to stand firmly in the face of this tyrannical aggression.

The party also urged all the Egyptian people to stand like one man and offer all means of aid and assistance to the fraternal Afghani people in affirmation of the principle of positive neutrality and of preserving the security and sovereignty of states and of safeguarding the international community against acts that threaten its security.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party chairman, said that the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan is tantamount to a dagger in the heart of the Middle East because it threatens the area with communist coups which Russia will intervene to support with the force of arms.

Mustafa Kamil Murad further said that the Soviet Union will go through the same stages undergone by the U.S. aggression against Vietnam, that the Afghani people are a proud people and that Afghanistan is a rugged country that makes guerrilla warfare against intruders easy.

Law No 83

Muhammad Mahmud Isma'il urged the need to implement law No 83 at once instead of implementing it in stages.

Counselor Hasan Mahrus, the General Secretariat member, said that the working married woman should be given the cost of living allowance that is given to bachelors to enable her to keep up with inflation. He also said that the husband and children should be given the working wife's pension in case of her death so as to enable them to maintain the family's living standard.

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CSO: 4802

EGYPT

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TO BE ASKED TO AMEND PERSONAL STATUTES LAW

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 1

[Article: "Amendment of Personal Statutes Law"]

[Text] Shaykh Salah Abu-Isma'il, an independent deputy in the People's Assembly, has said that he will present a special bill to amend the personal statutes law issued by the People's Assembly last July.

He added that he will submit the bill immediately upon conclusion of the sessions to debate the government program, plan and budget.

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GOVERNMENT WAGE, PRICE POLICY CRITICIZED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 1

[Editorial by Mustafa Kamil Murad: "Inflation, Wages and Prices"]

[Text] Despite my appreciation for the lengthy statement delivered by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil on the 1980 government program and despite the Liberal Party's agreement with some points in the statement, especially the points connected with encouraging the private sector and allocating a loan volume of 275 million pounds to finance this sector's projects and the points connected with reducing the interest rate to three percent for the land reclamation, cooperative housing and manual crafts sectors and abolishing the advance the private sector had to pay to get the effective U.S. loans and despite the party's agreement with the minister of planning's statement about establishing a national investment bank--despite all this, we have the following criticism to make:

First, the government statement has not contained a clear policy on developing the public sector's system, whether in terms of management or of financing, in order to enable this sector to perform its fundamental role in the development plan. This sector still gets 85 percent of the allocations. I have warned Dr Mustafa Khalil during our meetings that he will not be able to lift the ministers' control over the public sector projects and that this is the insurmountable obstacle facing the procession of this sector, especially since the abolition of the public establishments and their replacement by the system of technical secretariats and sectoral councils. This system has proven its failure throughout the 5 years of its application and the productivity of one pound of wages has dropped to 6.5 pounds. This is a very low productivity when compared with the pound's productivity in the private and joint sectors which has reached 65 pounds, i.e. tenfold that of the public sector. Though we support what has been contained in the minister of planning's statement about the creation of a national investment bank as a first step toward the creation of an independent system to loan and finance the public sector, the party believes that reformation of the public sector cannot take place step by step, like negotiations. The party believes that such reform should take place within the framework of a complete structure of management, financing,

planning and followup through the creation of holding companies (7 to 10 companies) that control the state capital in the public sector companies. By this system, each holding company will be in control of nearly 40 to 50 companies engaged in integrated economic activities, the system of specialized distribution whose failure has been proven and which is in conflict with the simplest principles of integration will be abolished and a higher council will be set up for the public sector and will include the chairmen of the holding companies and the ministers concerned, such as the ministers of planning, economy, finance, industry, agriculture, transportation and communication, to draft the public sector's plan and the size of the sector's investments, to follow up implementation of the plan and to be constitutionally accountable for it before the People's Assembly.

It is our opinion that without such steps, the public sector will not be able to perform an effective role with the enormous investments entrusted to it--investments that exceed 3 billion pounds in 1980.

Second, the party has noticed that the private sector's share of the 1980-84 development plan is still limited and indicates nothing other than the fact that the government is leftist in inclination, underlines the public sector's control of the economy and fails to give the private sector the opportunity to grow and to reach 30 percent [of the national economy] by 1984. This is the least to be done if a balance is to be established between the public sector investments and the private sector investments in order to realize the open-door economic policy and to open the door for the political liberties of the citizens, which constitute the foundations of democracy, through liberating the means of living from the control of the government and of the public sector.

The private sector's share in the 1980-84 plan does not exceed 17 percent or 3,875,000,000 pounds of the total investments of 22,155,000,000 pounds. Is there any explanation for this other than the explanation that Dr Mustafa Khalil's government is a leftist government or a government moved by leftists? The cure for this lies in the adoption of several economic measures to increase the private sector's investments during the years of the plan through the following means:

- A. Increase the volume of the loans available to the private sector.
- B. Reduce the interest rate on such loans according to the type of each investment activity.
- C. Increase the tax exemptions during the first 5 years of the projects and also increase the tax refunds on reinvested profits.
- D. Abolish decree No 600 and decree No 119.
- E. Abolish retroactive taxes completely and absolutely.

F. Establish a commercial currency market immediately to determine the true price of the pound so as to help increase the remittances of the savings of Egyptians abroad and to encourage investment and tourism.

G. Submit a new bill to amend law No 26 of 1954 concerning the establishment of joint-stock companies and financial companies. Not a single company has been set up in accordance with this law from 1961 until the present for reasons that are perfectly known to the minister of economy, the minister of supply, the minister of finance, the minister of planning and the chairman of the People's Assembly Economic Committee.

Third, Dr Mustafa Khalil's statement has been void of any reference to the increase rate of the means of payment--issued banknotes plus the public sector's current deposits in banks--and of any comparison between this rate on the one hand and the actual growth rate of the national income and wage growth rate on the other. There is no doubt that the gap between the two sides is clear, considering that the actual growth rate does not exceed nine percent whereas the increase in the means of payment is over 25 percent. This asserts that the inflation rate is more than 30 percent. Consequently, the cost of living allowance declared by the government does not exceed 12 percent the wages paid by the government and by the public sector. This means that this increase [cost of living allowance] cannot keep up economically with the inflation rate. This is an extremely weak point in Dr Mustafa Khalil's statement.

The decisive proof of the soundness of what we are saying is the fact that the Central Bank's report for 1978 said that the national income amounted to 7.5 billion pounds at current prices whereas the statement of the minister of planning has pointed out that the 1980 national income will amount to nearly 15 billion pounds at current prices, i.e. double its volume in 1978 and at a growth rate of 50 percent annually whereas the actual growth rate does not exceed 10 percent. I leave it to his excellency the prime minister and his economic team to make their conclusions on the annual inflation rate according to their own figures and to compare their conclusions with the cost of living allowance to realize the size of the gap between the wages and the prices. This is the truth about inflation, wages and prices and the truth that constitutes the basis for correcting any course.

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LIBERAL PARTY REPLIES TO GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 5

[Article: "Reply to Government Statement; Government Will Face Difficult Situations This Year; Need to Link Self-Rule With Normalization of Relations"]

[Text] The Socialist Liberal Party has declared that the government will face difficult situations this year. The party has underlined the need to link self-rule for the Palestinian people with the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel and the need to start a dialogue between Egypt and the Arab brothers because Egypt cannot live without the Arab world.

In its reply to the government statement, the party has declared that Egypt is passing through a delicate stage, both domestically and externally, and that this calls for the solidarity of all efforts exerted by the ruling party and by the opposition parties to enhance the procession of democracy and to bolster the partisan policy in Egypt so that the country may proceed with its national march, raising the banners of freedom and underlining its determination to go forward on its path of democratic socialism, national unity and social justice in order to overcome this difficult phase of laying down the foundations of peace in the Middle East area and of continuing the implementation of the Camp David accords for a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab Palestinian issue--a settlement that leads to Israel's withdrawal from the lands it occupied after the 1967 aggression and to setting up self-rule for the Palestinian people in affirmation of their absolute right to self-determination in accordance with the U.N. resolutions issued in this respect. This is in addition to correcting the country's economic course, bolstering its economy in order to increase national production, enhancing the citizens' standard of living and distributing the national wealth and income in a just manner that preserves the dignity of the Egyptian citizen and realizes for him a proper human life compatible with his deep-rooted civilization and with his long struggle and enormous sacrifices to safeguard the Palestinian people's rights and to enable them to set up their own state [sic].



## Multiplicity of Parties

Proceeding from this national starting point, the Socialist Liberal Party makes its reply to the government statement on the basis of the program of the Liberals which has emanated from the application of the principles of the July and May revolutions.

## Normalization of Relations

The Socialist Liberal Party supported the peace agreement and declared its opinion frankly in support of this agreement on the condition that consideration be given in its implementation to linking the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel with the realization of self-rule for the Palestinian people so that they may determine their future. At the time, the Egyptian government responded to this opinion and promised to link the normalization with self-rule so that the problem may be settled comprehensively in every sense of the word.

There is no doubt that implementation of the peace agreement will face some obstacles, difficulties and challenges. In this regard, the party stresses the need for graduality in the normalization of relations in view of the bitter material and psychological traces that the four wars have left in the hearts of many citizens.

## Difficult Situations

There is no doubt that the Socialist Liberal Party believes that the government will face difficult situations in 1980 in the Arab sphere, in the sphere of nonalignment and in the conflict between the two super powers because of the turmoil in the international relations that started in recent months with the Iranian revolution.

## Arab World

The party believes that Egypt's relationship with the Arab world is an organic and inseparable historical and religious relationship and that Egypt cannot live without the Arab world, as the Arab world cannot live without Egypt. Egypt is the heart of the Arab world, the cause of its pride and the source of its religious and cultural radiation. Moreover, the Arab world is an indivisible part of the Arab territories [sic] and there is between this world and Egypt a firm and inseparable bond and an unchangeable and unbreakable national unity.

Therefore, the party believes that it is necessary to continue the dialogue between Egypt and all the Arab countries through the official and unofficial channels so that this dialogue may continue to exist between Egypt and its Arab sisters to eliminate any misunderstanding and to prevent any malicious currents from coming between them.

## African Unity

The Liberal Party supports the government's eagerness for Egypt to play its effective role in bolstering the African unity and to prevent the infiltration of any foreign influence seeking to strike this unity, to divide the sons of the same continent or to instigate conflicts among them.

## Nonalignment

The party believes that the government should continue its concerted efforts to protect the nonaligned countries from the main international currents so that the bond among these countries may not be broken, as happened during the attempt made in the Cuba conference.

## Two Superpowers

While the Liberal Party supports the government in its efforts to improve its relations with the United States to the furthest limit possible without alignment, it draws the attention to the need to establish balanced and normal relations with the Soviet Union by virtue of its being one of the two superpowers and of having a special strategy in all sensitive areas of the world.

While condemning and rejecting the step taken by the Soviet Union to interfere militarily in a fraternal Islamic country (Afghanistan), the party believes that the Egyptian government should tackle this issue with calm and objective means and should always keep the door toward the Soviet Union open through the official and unofficial channels in order to preserve world peace.

## Means of Payment

The Socialist Liberal Party has noticed that the government statement is void of any reference to the 1980 increase rate in the volume of the means of payment--banknotes issued plus the public sector's current deposits in banks--as a result of implementation of the plan compared to the increase rate in these means in 1979.

It is worth noting that these rates are considered the real yardstick for the inflation rates in the plan year [sic] and that these rates affect the price levels of the commodities and of the services, i.e. they affect the individual standard of living.

The matter requires the government to make an accurate statement on the increase rates in the means of payment compared to the growth rates in the national income. Any imbalance between the two sides provides an accurate indicator nationally of the price levels of the commodities and services.

The government statement should have contained this comparison on whose basis the rate of wage increase can be calculated because the wages have to rise to keep up pace with the inflation rates.

Without such a comparison, it is impossible for the Assembly to know how adequate is the cost of living allowance announced by the government (265 million pounds) to counter the increase in prices.

### Currency Policy

The party has noticed that the minister of finance intends to submit a number of integrated financial laws, such as a customs law, a tax law, a purchase tax law and so forth. This is something that the party approves and supports. However, such a financial policy cannot bear fruit without a currency and economic policy complementing it. For example, the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade should present a number of currency, economic and trade laws that complement the financial laws referred to by the minister of finance in his statement on the state budget. The Ministry of Economy and Economic Cooperation may, for example, submit the following bills:

A currency law, a commercial currency market law, an import and export law and amendments on law No 43 of 1974.

### Domestic Trade

The same applies to the Ministry of Supply and Domestic Trade. This ministry should have submitted a number of new and integrated laws [bills] on domestic trade to complement the currency, economic, trade and financial laws. An example would be the trade register laws.

Therefore, the Socialist Liberal Party does not believe that it can be said that the open-door economic policy can achieve its goal in full without these integrated economic, currency, trade and financial laws to which we have referred.

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REPLY TO GOVERNMENT STATEMENT VOICES LIBERAL PARTY'S DEMANDS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 5

[Article: "Liberal Party Demands Abolition of Emergency Law; Democratic Dialogue Is Means for Settling Conflicts Between People's Forces"]

[Text] Ilfat Kamil, a People's Assembly member, has delivered the Liberal Party's reply to the government statement.

The party has underlined its adherence to the partisan policy, to the freedom of the private capital and to strengthening competition between the public and private sectors.

The party has also demanded abolition of the emergency law and the selection of the president of the republic by election. The party statement says that allowing the other opinion to express itself is the means for a stable system of rule and for reducing corruption, domination and oppression and that the democratic dialogue is a means to settle the conflicts between the people's forces.

The party has also demanded that efforts be exerted to narrow the gap between the maximum and minimum wages in Egypt.

The People's Assembly has received the Socialist Liberal Party's reply to the government program. The reply underlines political partisanship and constructive implementation that gives the private capital the freedom to invest in all the spheres of competition and partnership with the public sector within the framework of the development plan and under the canopy of the tolerant Islamic Shari'a.

The Liberal Party's reply says:

While we agree with and approve many of the principles and tasks outlined by the government, we find it our duty to answer the government statement on the basis of the Socialist Liberal Party's program which constitutes a popular line that reflects a strong general opinion. Our system differs from that of the government in seeking to realize these principles and those tasks in the following manner:



**First, Adherence to Goals of 23 July and 15 May Revolutions:**

The Socialist Liberal Party believes that the broad lines of the party's program are in agreement with the principles of the July and May revolutions. However, we take into consideration the domestic and external changes to underline and protect the citizens' political liberties that are founded on the freedom of expression, belief and faith, the right of congregation, the freedom of the press, the independence of the information media, the independence of the judiciary and the election of the president of the republic. However, the public sector should play a more effective role in the spheres of development within the framework of the development plan. These broad lines adopt the Islamic Shari'a as the fundamental source of the constitution and of the laws, seek respect for the individual and for his freedom to express his opinion and to earn a living while abiding by the socialist bases laid down by the great revolutions, thus providing incentives, strengthening competition and attracting money internally and externally to increase the volume of investment and to enhance the national production and revenues.

**Second, Inclination to Build Future Within Framework of Constitutional Legitimacy:**

On the basis of its program, the party stresses respect for the constitution and for the laws as a means of bolstering the political and social liberties within the framework of the multiplicity of the national parties whose programs are inspired by the socialist application of the July and May revolutions. The party stresses the citizen's right to exercise his political and social freedom so that the people may become more positive and may participate more extensively in a political action that stems from their free opinion and in accordance with the program of the political party that agrees with their thought and inclinations and so that all opinions may be expressed, especially the other opposed opinion so that it may assert its power and its role as watchdog over all the constitutional institutions. The system of government thus becomes stable, the elements of corruption are reduced and the mainstays of domination and oppression are destroyed.

**Third, Bolstering Socialist Principles and Establishing Balance Between Various Social Forces:**

The Liberal Party, which believes in the philosophy of the alliance of the people's working forces, also believes that the emergence of some conflict among the people's various groups can be settled through a free democratic dialogue. The party rejects the concept of class or bloody struggle.

The party asserts that the people's exercise of their political and social rights in full freedom is the legitimate means to achieve the democratic socialism which is established on balance between the citizen's political freedom and his social freedom so that neither may predominate the other.

#### Fourth, Balance Between Development Requirements and Needs of Masses:

While we agree with the government in its eagerness to supply food commodities to the various groups of the people at prices compatible with the incomes of the toilers, we find it necessary to encourage the Egyptian private sector to invest more extensively and to encourage the savings of Egyptians working abroad to be invested nationally instead of being deposited in foreign banks or channelled toward consumption. This will also attract Arab and foreign capital to invest in Egypt, thus increasing its production and improving the quality of this production. All this requires a change in the interest rates for savings and loans and changes in the tax and customs laws so that they may form a new and complete framework that leads to realizing the goals referred to by the [government] statements.

#### Will Government Succeed?

The government statement has not been clear enough to make us sure that the government will succeed in realizing objective solutions for some chronic problems, such as the problems of housing, transportation, sewerage, communications, water and electricity--all of which require the stabilization of prices and the squeezing of government spending. What the government has mentioned in this regard is tantamount to unchecked statements that have not defined clearly the means to acquire the resources necessary to achieve these goals. These statements will greatly affect the inflation rates and will cause the prices to rise to such levels that will consume any increase in incomes.

#### Fifth, Solidarity in Building Egyptian Man:

Developing the human wealth and enhancing its ability in all spheres requires complete programs to rebuild the Egyptian man and to remove all the obstacles and problems facing him, such as illiteracy and [the lack of] family planning. Moreover, social relations between the individual and society and other issues require defining clearly the financial resources necessary to achieve integration in building the Egyptian man.

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CSO: 4802

# GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR PRIVATE SECTOR ALLOCATIONS, CONSTRUCTION FIGURES

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Jan 80 p 5

[Article: "Leftist Trends in Prime Minister's Statement"]

[Text] The Socialist Liberal Party's General Secretariat has discussed the latest developments in the domestic and external situation and has prepared the agenda for the joint meeting of the Political Bureau and the party's provincial chairmen.

The General Secretariat has discussed the leftist trends that have appeared in Egypt, and even inside the government. These trends are made evident by analyzing the prime minister's statement on fiscal 1980, on the state budget and the general budget and on the 1980-84 five-year plan.

The party has included its observations in the reply delivered by Ilfat Kamil to the People's Assembly. The reply embodies the figures and the real meaning of every provision [in the budget].

## Government Has not Succeeded

Some of the observations state that the private sector investments have not exceeded 17 percent of the total investments of the 1980-84 five-year plan. If anything, this indicates that the government has not succeeded in realizing the investments required for the open-door economic policy and that the public sector still acquires 83 percent of the total investments. This is a very high percentage that will result in increased open and bank drawing on the part of the public sector companies, thus increasing the volume of the means of payment, higher inflation rates and, consequently, higher prices.

## Figures by Minister of Housing

The party has noticed from the minister of housing's statement that the 1979 construction capacity did not exceed 850 million pounds, or 30 percent the investment volume, whereas the minister has said that the volume of the construction investments amounts to 45 percent of the plan's total investments, amounting to 3.68 billion pounds in 1980. This means that the volume of the construction investments should amount to nearly 1.5 billion pounds. So,

can the government raise the construction capacity from 850 million pounds in 1979 to the required 1.5 billion pounds in 1980? Has the manpower required to implement this construction volume been assessed and secured? Has the government secured the construction requirements (cement, iron, glass panes, sanitary appliances, electricity and other facilities) needed for this construction volume?

The Liberal Party hopes that the government will realize the desired goal. But to do this, it is required to create numerous contracting companies, to supply the latest equipment and to provide the required raw materials and labor, with 40 percent of the total investments to be set aside for the construction materials and 30 percent for labor.

A heated discussion took place on Afghanistan, the Islamic state and the nonalignment member, which is being devoured and on which the communist system is being imposed by force.

Another current problem is the problem of the development of events in Iran, Iran's position toward the United States and the U.S. position toward Iran.

#### Afghanistan...Ended

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi, the party representative [wakil], has said that all resources should be mobilized to defend Afghanistan and that Afghanistan will not be regained from the Soviet Union's grip without collective Islamic action that includes all the Islamic countries and America with all its resources. As serious as the external situation is, the domestic situation is still more serious. All the forces must be united and we must stand fast and must continue to fight against the strong opponents.

#### Radical Groups

Nafisah al-Ghamrawi, member of the General Secretariat, has said: The radical groups pose a danger with the strength they have attained. There has been reports that they give a woman 6 pounds to wear a veil. The government must pursue these groups to find out the sources of their enormous finances.

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CSO: 4802

**EDITORIAL OFFERS ALTERNATIVES TO SUBSIDIES, BLACK MARKET**

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 1

[Editorial by Hamid Zaydan: "Every Citizen's Right and Confronting Black Market"]

[Text] The criterion of the success fo a government is linked with the formulation of immediate objectives and long-range objectives to achieve fundamental goals for all groups of the people and not for a certain group at the expense of others.

Foremost among the fundamental goals hoped to be achieved for the people is the right of every citizen to food, clothing, housing, education, transportation, healthcare and cultural care and his right to work and to participate in making and issuing the decision and not just in implementing and abiding by the decision.

The government statement was delivered to the People's Assembly during the period when AL-SHA'B was in suspension and so this paper did not have the opportunity to follow the statement closely. But the statement of the Committee to Reply to the Government Statement may give us the opportunity to say a quick word.

The government statement has abounded with enormous and numerous figures on many allocations. We may not differ on the issues of housing, education, transportation, health and other services to which the government statement has referred. We have already discussed a large number of these issues in AL-SHA'B and have presented in what we published solutions, some of which have been adopted by the government--especially in the sphere of housing. Nobody has provoked us by asking for the alternative because we do have the alternative, otherwise we would not have presumed to undertake public service.

The question, and the persistent question, about the alternative does not embarrass anybody, especially if this anybody is a party with its clear program and a party that is prepared to answer all questions objectively and is able to program its opinions. This has been evident in the analytical articles published by AL-SHA'B on both the domestic and external political issues and on economic issues.



We welcome the contents of the statement of the Reply Committee regarding the controls of democratic action. These controls guarantee in themselves the government's abidance by implementation of the promises and projects contained in its statement and we wish the government success in implementing them.

However, the government statement and the Reply Committee statement have not offered the alternative solutions to the question of abolishing the subsidies, of cancelling the ration cards and of supplying the consumer goods that have left the ration card system to enter the black market.

If the government wants from us the alternatives for this problem and if we are to be objective, purposeful, constructive and honorable--as they always ask us to be--then we urge the government and its ruling party to expand the establishment of cooperative consumer associations and branches of the consumer complexes and to supply consumer goods to these sites so as to strike the black market and to protect the people generally, and particularly the poor consumers, consumers with a limited income and all the civil servants and workers with a limited income in our country.

#### Political Words

Charan Singh, the head of the Indian provisional government, is a man worthy of all respect and appreciation. This man has managed the election process in India and his party, (Lok Dak), has emerged a loser, gaining only 40 of the 504 parliamentary seats.

This great man has not rigged up the elections and has not been defeated in them. Rather, he has scored a victory for democracy, has abided by the law and the constitution and has respected the right of his country's people to express their opinion and to select their representatives freely.

Even though we support the right of the Iranian people and of their national revolution to try the deposed shah for his crimes against the people, we reject the detention of the hostages in Tehran, we reject the U.S. military mobilization in the Gulf waters and we reject the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and any preceding or following intervention.

The world feels fear for world peace in the Far East area now that the phase of military coordination between China and the United States has begun in order to confront the Soviet expansion in southeast Asia.

We feel fear for peace in the Middle East area now that the phase of facilities for the United States in the Egyptian skies and on Egyptian territories has started.

We assert on this occasion our abidance by our principled and objective positions and by the principle of positive neutrality and nonalignment.

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CSO: 4802

STATEMENTS ON WATER SUPPLY FOR JERUSALEM, U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES CRITICIZED

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 1, 3

[Article: "Multiplicity of Parties Alone Is not Democracy"]

[Text] Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of the Socialist Labor Party, has asserted that the national policies which have their impact on the country's future are not the property of a certain party and that they should be subject to the democracy of the decision which belongs to the People's Assembly. He has demanded democracy of the decision and has said that the multiplicity of parties in itself is not democracy.

Shukri has pointed out that a number of national issues about which statements have been published or made by the leadership of the National Party, represented in President al-Sadat, have not found their way toward democratic discussion and approval and that many of these statements have surprised not only the ordinary citizen but also the observer who keeps up with the development of affairs and events.

Giving an example of these issues, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri cites the question of conveying the Nile water to Jerusalem. He has said that he does not believe that this question has taken its democratic course at the National Party levels and that nobody has discussed it with the opposition.

Giving another example, Shukri cites the question of granting facilities to the U.S. forces and the statement made by the army commander about the joint exercises carried out by the U.S. air force and the Egyptian air force. Shukri wonders: Has this decision, which is a serious one, taken the democratic path? We, as far as we know, are a member of the nonaligned countries and such a decision should have been approved by the People's Assembly first. (See page 3)

[Page 3] Article by Ibrahim Shukri: National Policies Are not Property of One Party; Democracy of Making and Issuing Decision Needed.

[Text] Egypt has found its way toward democracy. The creation of the parties or, to put it more precisely, the attempt at the creation of parties

was the first phenomenon with which we emerged to the world. Hopes and ideas began to tickle the minds with images of the partisan establishments in the democratic countries, especially the deep-rooted democratic countries, and images of how the citizens can express their opinions through the parties and through honest parliamentary representation.

At this point, I find myself compelled to say a few words about the Indian elections that have brought back Indira Gandhi with such a big majority only 3 years after the resounding defeat of her party--a defeat which shook the feelings of many outside India.

Indira Gandhi has returned only because those who succeeded her failed in their task to reduce the problems of the Indian people. These [election] results have reflected an honorable image of the Indian elections, of their truthfulness and their honesty--an image that has made every Egyptian apologize deep in his heart for the common proverb that we use in some situations and that we attribute to the Indian.

Let me return to Egypt to say that the idea of creating parties constituted a beginning and a step toward establishing democracy. Whoever thinks that the picture became complete with the mere announcement of the formation of parties is wrong. Anyway, I will not talk about the conditions or the method in which the parties in Egypt have been formed or about the remoteness of some aspects of these conditions and of this method from the constitutional rule of the freedom of the citizen to set up parties and groups. The writers of AL-SHA'B have already dealt with this issue. Therefore, I will move on to what I want to explain.

The parties with their various rules and organizations and the elections in their various ways--ways in which the interpretations differ and whereby the aim is to reach a real representation of the people--are only a means, and not a goal, to enable the people to rule themselves and to make their own decision ultimately.

It is natural for the majority party to be the ruling party because it can implement its policies with its majority.

But these policies should be approved by the party's congresses and by its popular bases before they become declared policies and decisions issued by the party leadership.

Moreover, it has been the custom in all the countries that are deep-rooted in democracy and that have various parties--it has been customary for the majority party not to adopt the national, fateful and foreign policies [separately] but to share the opinion with the parties outside the government, i.e. the parties representing the opposition, because these policies are not the property of a single party but are national policies that have their impact on the country's future. The people can always change the partisan balances and turn the majority parties into minority parties and vice versa.

I am making these statements on the occasion of statements made or published in the name of the National Party leadership, represented by President al-Sadat. These statements have not taken their course of discussion or approval in the democratic method. Rather, many of the statements have surprised not only the ordinary citizen but also the observer who keeps up with the development of affairs and events. These statements include the talk about conveying the Nile water to Jerusalem. Despite the prologue and introduction published in OCTOBER magazine about the "new Zamzam for Jerusalem" which will make the Nile water available to the followers of the three religions who visit Jerusalem--despite this prologue and introduction, President al-Sadat's statement on this issue during the interview conducted with him by Himmat Mustafa and broadcast to the people has undoubtedly aroused among many, including myself, views that oppose this. The facts say that the issue of disposing of the Nile water is governed by an agreement among nine African states, led by the fraternal Sudan. No unilateral action should be taken by Egypt to convey the Nile water beyond its borders.

There is another reality, namely that this thinking is countered by a bitter situation in the Islamic and Christian Arab Jerusalem--a situation under which Zionism is still trampling the Arab Jerusalem and is trying to do nowadays what it has not tried to do throughout the long years since 1967, namely to seize the Arab electricity company in Jerusalem so as to further cut off any link, regardless of how weak, between Jerusalem and its Arabism.

How disdainful of our intellect and the intellect of all the Arabs and Muslims was Begin when he stood in Aswan and looked afar, toward Afghanistan, to talk about the oppressive force attacking the independence of others and seizing their territory, forgetting, or wanting us to forget, the reality under his own feet, forgetting his clinging to Jerusalem and to the West Bank and saying that it is not an alien land to us...to the end of his statements that still reek of the smell of the gangs that committed all kinds of atrocities against the Muslim Arab inhabitants of Dayr Yasin and of other places.

Are we volunteering to state that we will supply water to this man in Jerusalem when he insists that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, whatever the opinion of the rest of the world?

I don't believe that the decision to supply the water to Jerusalem has taken its democratic course at the levels of the National Party. Moreover, nobody has even discussed it with the opposition.

Then we hear another report or statement from the foreign press and broadcasting stations about permitting the establishment of U.S. bases in Egypt. We then hear statements citing President al-Sadat as saying that he will not permit bases but will give the U.S. forces facilities in case a danger threatens one of the Arab countries. We then read in the national press reports citing the army commander as having said that there have actually been joint exercises between the U.S. air force and the Egyptian air force in preparation for cooperation in case facilities are granted to the U.S. forces!!



Did this decision, which is a serious one, take its democratic course. We, as far as we know, are still a member of the nonaligned countries. Such a decision should have been approved by the People's Assembly at a session that could have been a closed session and could have been attended by the minister of defense or the prime minister to explain the matter to this Assembly. I am confident that all will rise to the level of the responsibility and that all possess national awareness that enables them to fully appreciate the situation. But for all concerned to read the most serious decisions and statements in the press, this is as far from democracy as possible and such conduct drags us back to the era of the single organization and the single opinion and decision that were never debated. This is the path that caused us a lot of problems in the past.

There are other decisions that have taken a step on the democratic path. But this step, we find, is not enough to give these decisions the power of legitimate and sound implementation. I mean by these decisions the ones issued by the Democratic National Party's Political Bureau in Aswan.

These decisions include the decision to lower diplomatic representation between us and the Soviet Union because of the Soviet Union's flagrant intervention with its armies in Afghanistan. The minister of state for foreign affairs hastened to summon the Soviet ambassador and to inform him of the decision to reduce the number of the members of the Soviet diplomatic mission in Cairo. Earlier, it was announced that the Egyptian ambassador to Moscow had failed to leave [for his post] without even waiting for a decision by the People's Assembly on this issue or for the Assembly's approval of such a step. The statement that has been submitted by the government and that is still being discussed at the Assembly talks about another policy proposed to bolster the relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. It is true that the proposal was made before the events in Afghanistan. However, duty requires us not to take any actual steps before referring to the Assembly.

I will not talk this week about the idea advocating the creation of a league for the Arab and Islamic nations and intended to tell the Arab League that its role has ended. This issue will be postponed till next week.

I will conclude my statements by saying that democracy does not consist of setting up parties or pseudo-parties. The crux of democracy is the democracy of the decision. Without it, what we are advocating, namely the people's rule of themselves, will not be realized. God is great and long live the people.

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LABOR PARTY WANTS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS FACILITIES FOR U.S. FORCES

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 2

[Article: "Demand for Debating Military Facilities for United at People's Assembly; Islamic Grouping Will not Occur Without Arab Grouping"]

[Text] Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the Socialist Labor Party chairman, has asserted that the Arab grouping is the throbbing heart of the Islamic grouping and has said that those advocating an Islamic grouping are ignoring the reality and that the Arab grouping is the basis of every grouping.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri has also said that the Arab world is currently passing through an extraordinary period which will disappear when the Arab countries become reassured that the Palestinian issue is on its way to being settled and that Egypt is not seeking a separate solution but that it clings to the Arab right and to the creation of a Palestinian state.

The Labor Party chairman has announced that AL-SHA'B will call for an information campaign to fly the Palestinian flags and that the party will demand that the first lesson in all the phases of education be about Egypt's efforts for the creation of a Palestinian state. AL-SHA'B will also ask the national papers to take part in this campaign.

Shukri has also said that he will demand that the issue of military facilities for the United States be debated at the People's Assembly. These statements were made during the party's weekly colloquium which was held last Tuesday.

Congratulation to Copts

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri opened his address with congratulations to the Copts on the occasion of Christmas. He said: I have gone to the cathedral in the name of all the Socialist Labor Party members to congratulate our Christian brothers on their holiday.

## Who Against Whom?

The party chairman then added: I regret to say that we are not devoting enough attention in our Arab policy to the dangers that will threaten us if the estrangement between us and our Arab brothers persists. We must exert doubled efforts to reduce this estrangement.

But to be declared that we are about to set up a league of Arab and Islamic nations with the aim of overlooking the governments is something that we cannot accept. It is impossible to believe that all the Arab and Islamic peoples are in disagreement with their governments.

When we speak about the aggression in Afghanistan and call in Egypt for the unity of the Islamic peoples as a substitute for the Arab League, then these statements need to be examined. What has happened in Afghanistan may be a reaction to the mobilization of the U.S. fleet in the Arab Gulf against Iran.

## Question That Must Be Raised

We do truly want to help the Afghani people. But in the tumult of the events, we hear a lot. We have heard that U.S. bases will be established in our lands and then we have heard that there will be no bases but facilities. All this must be brought up for discussion at the People's Assembly so that we may know our real position. In the midst of our enthusiasm to help Afghanistan, we cannot let this issue pass without discussion.

Shukri further added that the talk about the Islamic grouping cannot be logical without an Arab grouping. The Arab grouping is 99 percent Islamic. The venerable Koran was revealed on the Arab land and the Arab land contains the holy places.

The Arab grouping is the throbbing heart of the Islamic grouping. Should we unite with Bangladesh and fail to join Saudi Arabia in common action? Logic says that the Arab grouping is the basis and that statements to the contrary are very serious. We do not accept an Islamic grouping at the expense of Arab division.

## Political Bureau's Decisions Are Against Constitution

Those advocating that the Arab policy be replaced by this new policy do not realize the seriousness of what they advocate. The constitution stipulates that Egypt is a part of the Arab nation. Whatever the nature of the decisions taken by the Democratic National Party's Political Bureau, they are decisions against the constitution and a deviation from the constitution and those who have adopted them must be questioned at the People's Assembly.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri added that this period through which the Arab world is passing is an extraordinary period. The entire world knows this and this is why the world recognizes the Arab League in Egypt and the Arab League in Tunisia. When the Arab countries are reassured that the Palestinian problem

is on its way to being solved and that Egypt is not seeking a separate solution but rather clings to the Arab right to restoring the Arab territories and establishing the Palestinian state, the Arab front will re-emerge stronger than it has ever been after having rid itself of all the impurities attached to it.

I have discussed this issue with some of our brothers in the People's Assembly and we have decided to submit a request for discussing the issue at the Assembly.

#### **We Will Fly Palestinian Flags**

Shukri also said: I declare again that we will fly the Palestinian flags on the 26th of the coming month of February to express our commitment to the comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem and our insistence on the creation of the state of Palestine.

If Israel has realized its goals by normalizing its relations with us, then we must also attain our goals of full evacuation from the occupied Arab territories and from the Arab Jerusalem and of creating the Palestinian state.

He said that AL-SHA'B newspaper will organize an information campaign for flying the Palestinian flags. We will not be content with flying these flags but will further demand that the first lesson given at all the educational levels on the 26th of the coming month of February be devoted to Egypt's efforts for the creation of the Palestinian state. We will demand that the national papers take part in this campaign.

Shukri also said: I urge all, including the Democratic National Party, to take part in this campaign because it ultimately seeks to strengthen the position of the Egyptian negotiator in the face of the Israeli intransigence. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is trying to achieve his goals while placing at the same time obstacles in the face of the realization of our legitimate demands, having made Israel understand that it has gotten all it wants and that it can now establish the greater Israel.

Concluding his statements, the party chairman said: The events undergone by our party in recent days have made us more united. However, the situation requires from us doubled efforts in all spheres so that the people may become familiar with our party, its principles and its positions. With work, and work alone, will the people become familiar with our party.

#### **Democratic Exercise Continues**

Fu'ad Nushi, the party's information secretary, had opened the colloquium by congratulating the party members on the re-publication of AL-SHA'B, the newspaper of the party and of free opinion.

Nushi said: Though this struggling paper was compelled to stop, its suspension has been an eloquent lesson to those who believe that Egypt can march without democracy. The officials and the people have felt that a free newspaper is much stronger than tens of government newspapers and that a free voice is capable of averting many mistakes and tragedies.

It has been proven throughout the past weeks that the press is truly a fourth estate that is not shackled by the powers of other authorities, such as the authority of the Democratic National Party and of the Socialist Union. The people have been very happy with the re-publication of AL-SHA'B and all this has constituted a victory for democracy.

Nushi further added: The decision of the Democratic National Party's Political Bureau in Aswan to replace the Arab League with the so-called league of Islamic peoples has shocked all of us because with this decision, the National Party is leading Egypt far from the Arab current.

Regardless of how strongly the Arabs disagree, Egypt must reconsider its calculations, not to get rid of its Arabism but to reaffirm its Arab role.

#### Hardships Make Men

Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, the party's assistant secretary and the People's Assembly member for Fariskur District, then said: We have passed through critical and sweet days which we will remember benevolently. Hardships make men and contact creates firmness. Events have proven that your men, led by Engineer Shukri Ibrahim, are fully responsible for every step they make.

The recent days have harbored within their folds the danger of striking democracy. Many have tried to use what has been said on the pages of AL-SHA'B as a means to strike democracy. We have had to deal with the situation wisely and without emotion because calm actions are responsible actions.

I cannot express my joy at the republication of AL-SHA'B because it is the real throb that reaches every heart. A lot has been said to explain the suspension of AL-SHA'B.

However, I assure you that those in charge of the newspaper, led by Engineer Ibrahim Shukri and Hamid Zaydan, have not capitulated to any demand so that this paper may continue to be a platform for free opinion.

Hamid Zaydan, AL-SHA'B's chief editor, then asserted that AL-SHA'B is the newspaper of the honorable pens. We publish every opinion, even the opinions of those with whom we disagree. The credit in this goes to God and to the intellectual school of MISR AL-FATAH in which we grew up. AL-SHA'B belongs to whoever says a free and honorable word for the sake of Egypt.

#### Twisted Attempts

Rashad al-Shibrabkhumí, member of the party's Executive Committee, then asserted that the suspension of the newspaper and the abstention of the



other press establishments from printing it was not due to personal positions but due to twisted attempts that sought to keep the newspaper suspended and to spread despair in the party.

He said that the paper is the party and its voice among millions. It is a discordant voice in the prevailing information climate because it is the newspaper of the other opinion and because democracy cannot be established without the other opinion.

#### **Tahun Is not Above Questioning**

Artist Hamdi Ahmad, member of the party's Parliamentary Committee, then spoke, thanking Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil for his stance toward the investigations in the telephones deal. Ahmad said that the prime minister has given the other officials an example in shouldering the responsibility. Ahmad further said that Nasif Tahun, the minister of supply, is also not above questioning now that the loaf of bread costing one half piaster has disappeared and that the citizen can only find the loaf costing one piaster. The state subsidy for bread has thus become a subsidy that ends up in the pickets of bakery owners. Ahmad proposed that the Ministry of Supply designate one bakery in every quarter to produce the one-piaster loaf of bread and force the other bakeries to produce the loaf costing one half piaster.

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COPTS TOLD NOT TO MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 4

[Article: "Pope Shinudah Prohibits Copts From Visiting Jerusalem"]

[Text] Pope Shinudah II, the pope of Alexandria and the patriarch of the Coptic Patriarchate, has asserted that the Egyptian church will not acknowledge the fait accompli in Jerusalem despite the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel and the exchange of diplomatic representation between them.

The pope has also asserted that he will not permit resumption of the Christian pilgrimage trips to Jerusalem by Egyptian pilgrims and pilgrims who belong to the Alexandria Orthodox Church unless Israel restores to this church Dayr al-Sultan [abbey] which belongs to it.

The Israeli aggression authorities seized this abbey which belongs to Egypt in the wake of the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem in 1967 and handed it over to some Ethiopian monks.

Abbot Basilyus, the Egyptian bishop of Jerusalem, brought legal action in the case before the Israeli Supreme Court which issued a ruling to restore the abbey to the Egyptian church. However, the Israeli Government has refused to carry out the sentence for political considerations, as the Israeli cabinet has stated frankly.

Since 1967, the Egyptian Coptic Church has refused to take part in any Christian ceremonies in Jerusalem. Moreover, the leadership of this church in Egypt has prohibited the Egyptian Christian pilgrims from visiting Israel. This leadership insists on this position until Israel restores the abbey to it, considering that it is a pure Egyptian property. Since the signing of the Camp David accords and the peace treaty, the Egyptian church has submitted several official memoranda reaffirming its position.

EGYPT

CULTURAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON SAID TO HAVE COMMITTED FINANCIAL VIOLATIONS

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 4

[Article: "Financial and Administrative Violations at Egyptian Cultural Office in Washington"]

[Text] Dr 'Izz-al-Din 'Ali Mustafa, the cultural adviser and the deputy director of the Egyptian cultural mission in Washington, has exposed several financial and administrative violations at the Egyptian cultural office in the U.S. capital.

Dr 'Izz-al-Din says in a memorandum in this regard that violations of the administrative allocations for the office amounted in 1977 alone to (\$16,913). He points out that the office director had disbursed to himself travel and transportation allowances amounting to \$820 as expenses for accompanying a former undersecretary even though this undersecretary was invited at the expense of one of the U.S. agencies. The memorandum says that the office director also disbursed to himself \$200 as travel expenses over the three-day period from 14 to 16 November 1976. Moreover, he printed in 1977 a total of 3,000 greeting cards at a cost of \$365.

The memorandum further points out that the director gave jobs to the wives and daughters of the diplomats at the trade office in Washington, listing the names of those who worked at the office. The memorandum further says that the office director insisted that two persons continue to work as local employees at the office after the end of the period of their delegation and after they had submitted their resignations. Dr 'Izz-al-Din has demanded that these incidents and violations be investigated.

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**DANGERS OF RURAL EMIGRATION TO CAIRO UNDERLINED**

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 p 6

[Article: "Vice President of Cairo University Warns of Drop in Standard of Cairo Services and of Emergence of Haphazardly Quarters"]

[Text] Dr Muhammad Subhi 'Abd-al-Hakim, the vice president of Cairo University, has warned of the emigration flowing into Cairo, saying: This population growth results in numerous ill consequences embodied primarily in a drop in the standard of the services offered to the inhabitants of the capital. He added that the most significant consequences include:

Inadequacy of the services and utilities, such as the water, sewerage and electricity utilities that are serving a population much larger than their designed maximum capacity.

The problem of transportation and communications in Cairo which is linked with the poor state of the roads, the chaotic traffic and the poor conditions of the public transport vehicles and means of transportation that serve numbers much larger than their capacity, thus causing daily hardships to millions of citizens. This is in addition to the drop in the hypothetical life span of these means. Moreover, the telephone lines in many quarters have become totally ineffective.

A drop in the individual's share of health and social care and of recreation and the meager share of green and open spaces that Cairo's residences get despite the pollution threatening the capital and despite the high population overcrowding and density that reach an exhausting level.

A sharper housing crisis. Cairo is already suffering from phenomena that have been unfamiliar to it. Such as the inhabiting of cemeteries and the presence of large numbers of homeless people. This leads to harmful social consequences. Numerous economic, social and moral problems have already emerged as a result of smaller supply than demand in the sphere of housing.

The inability of Cairo's schools to absorb the students in the various stages of education and the overcrowding of classrooms with students which forces the schools to work in shifts. This has its impact on and its harmful consequences for the academic education and the scholastic activities of the rising generations.

The emergence of haphazardly quarters reflects the phenomenon of superficial urbanization because the inhabitants of these quarters have moved to live in the city without changing their ways of life or their patterns of social behavior. The economic and social standards of the inhabitants of these quarters are low and often lead to the emergence of unhealthy symptoms in society.

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# NEED FOR DEVELOPING NEW CITIES, COMMUNITIES UNDERLINED

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 pp 6-7

[Article: "Al-Kafrawi Says: If Population Attraction Centers Are not Created Outside Cities, Haphazardly Building Expansion Will Continue; Egypt Loses 20,000 Feddans Annually Because of Haphazardly Building Expansion"]

[Text] I have addressed a number of questions to Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, the minister of development and new communities, on the future of development in the Egyptian desert areas outside the narrow valley that comprises four percent of Egypt's total area and which is suffering from fearful overcrowding. What have we done to go beyond this narrow strip? I asked these and many more questions on development, housing and food security.

## Root of Problem

At the outset of his interview, Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi said that the root of the problem that is facing the state's efforts in the spheres of housing, development and food security is embodied in the population growth. We all know that Egypt's population reached 40 millions in 1978 whereas it had been 38.2 millions in 1976, i.e. the population growth over a period of 21 months amounted to 1.8 millions, at a rate of one person every 21 seconds. If the current population growth rates persist, Egypt's population will reach nearly 66 millions in the year 2000, of whom 15 millions will live in the Greater Cairo province alone.

Concerning the effects of this fearful population growth, the minister of development has said: It is no secret to any of us that if population attraction centers are not created outside the present cities, the haphazardly building expansion will continue, consuming nearly 20,000 feddans of fertile agricultural land annually. If the situation persists as it is at present, the swallowed area of fertile agricultural land will amount to nearly one half million feddans by the year 2000.

Engineer al-Kafrawi points out that there has been a drop in the agricultural area from 1952 until the present as a result of the expansion of the population centers at the expense of the cultivable area. This has led to a drop in the individual's share of the cultivable area despite the reclaimed lands. As a consequence of the drop in the cultivable area, a part of the



countryside population has emigrated to the cities, in addition to the traditional emigration in search of better work opportunities. Thus, the population of the urban areas represented 44 percent of the total population in 1976 whereas this percentage amounted to 19 percent in 1907. Consequently, the urban population will exceed one half the republic's total population in the year 2000.

#### Has Solution Phase Started?

Engineer al-Kafrawi says that overcrowding in the major cities will continue and like it or not, the consumption of agricultural land will continue unless we find a solution for the population growth. The only solution, which has become an inevitable necessity, lies in new cities and communities. The first thing that this solution achieves is to preserve this dear percentage of the land that is consumed, i.e. it will offer the state 20,000 feddans of fertile agricultural land annually.

#### Minister of Development Criticizes

Engineer al-Kafrawi declares openly that there is a problem concerning land reclamation, namely the problem of the lack of studies on underground water. He says that it is unacceptable that the Desert Development Authority started its land reclamation efforts in the New Valley in 1962--efforts coupled with underground water studies--and yet is unable until now to determine the quantities of underground water on which we can rely for stable and economic agricultural expansion in the New Valley.

Here, the words of the minister of development and new communities end. Now, has the phase of solving all these existing problems actually started?

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CONTINUED STATE OF EMERGENCY VIEWED AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 80 pp 7, 11

[Article by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad: "Termination of State of Emergency Due to Disappearance of Cause of Its Declaration"]

[Text] Ceaseless efforts are being exerted these days to achieve the so-called normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel, i.e. the establishment between the two countries of relations similar to the customary normal relations between two states having no enmity, dispute or conflict with one another. Steps are being taken to get the embassy premises of each country in the other country ready in preparation for the exchange of ambassadors.

The necessary arrangements are also being made to inaugurate an air route between the two countries as of the 26th of this January--a route served by Egypt Air and the Israeli El Al. Telecommunications, postal and telephone contacts between the two countries will also begin as of the aforementioned date. The sites to be agreed upon will be also opened for the movement of passengers between the two countries by land, sea and air.

This normalization will take place while a large part of the Sinai is still occupied by the Israeli forces. However, the peace treaty stipulates that this normalization take place after completion of the first phase of withdrawal to al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line. Egypt's commitment to the normalization of relations has not been hampered by the obstacles engulfing the self-rule talks concerning the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip or by the stumbling blocks placed by Israel in the face of these talks either through bringing up whatever may prevent reaching an agreement during the current negotiations which have been going on for nearly 8 months or through committing acts and issuing decisions that indicate ill will and the lack of any desire to solve the Palestinian problem--acts and decisions such as establishing new settlements in the Bank and the Strip or enlarging the existing settlements, permitting the Israelis to buy Arab-owned lands and evacuating some areas for public or military purposes.

Rather, the state of war between Egypt and Israel ended and peace was established between them--in accordance with the treaty both sides signed

in Washington on 26 March 1979--as soon as the instruments of ratification were exchanged. This should have required termination of the martial laws, embodied in the state of emergency declared in the country because of this war.

#### Termination [suqut] of State of Emergency Due to Disappearance of Its Cause

Declaration of the state of emergency took place on 5 June 1967 on the occasion of the eruption of the war between Egypt and Israel. This state was declared in accordance with presidential decree No 1327 of 1967 and there is no place for its continuation and persistence as long as the cause for its declaration has disappeared. This is what used to be cited in support of the peace treaty with Israel, considering that termination of the state of emergency is a popular demand.

The state of emergency requires while in effect suspension of the personal and public liberties stipulated by the constitution and implementation of the provisions of the emergency law, namely law No 162 of 1958 amended by law No 37 of 1972 which gives the president of the republic or his representative special powers that affect the lives of the citizens, their liberties and the inviolability of their homes and that suspend many of the guarantees stipulated by the constitution to protect the citizen's safety and freedom.

Continuation of the declared state of emergency in the country cannot be relished at a time when efforts are in progress to establish normal relations with Israel which had caused the eruption of the war because of which the state of emergency was declared. The situation now requires that relations with the citizens be governed by the ordinary law and not be subject to extraordinary rules and regulations.

The martial rules are actually used. The powers of the state security courts are determined in accordance with the emergency law. These courts still meet and examine cases referred to them and announce their sentences only after ratification by the president of the republic. This power is also determined by the emergency law and may [not] be appealed. Moreover, the public prosecution's right to impose absolute and indeterminate incarceration about which we read a lot in the press--this right is also a power determined by the state of emergency law. The president of the republic's right to object to judiciary release decisions and to have these decisions reconsidered within a period of 2 weeks is also a right determined by the state of emergency law.

#### Why Maintain It If It Will not Be Used in Future?

Ahmad al-Khawajah, the lawyers doyen, requested that the state of emergency be abolished at the meeting which President al-Sadat held with the professional unions' during the last month of Ramadan. The president replied at a later meeting that this state will be abolished after complete withdrawal from the Sinai, i.e. after 2 years. During President al-Sadat's meeting with the judges at the Judges Club on 10 October 1979, the club

chairman stood up to declare in the name of Egypt's judges: "Now that we have moved from the state of war to the state of peace, we--like the other citizens--look forward to an imminent day in which the state of emergency and all the special courts are abolished and in which the martial rules law is reconsidered to confine the power of its rules to the purely military crimes so that all the citizens without exception may come under the protection of their ordinary judge in accordance with the provisions of article 68 of the constitution." Answering this issue in his address, President al-Sadat said that he feared that some people would misunderstand what had been said or that our enemies might cast suspicions on the independence of the judiciary, that he had not and will not resort to the use of the martial law and that when the final withdrawal takes place, he will abolish this law without being asked to do so by anybody, as he had done with the multiplicity of parties.

The fact is that there is no place for the fear that some people abroad may exploit the opinions we express at home or the light we shed on our faults, else we will keep our faults uncorrected. Moreover, we find that the deep-rooted democratic countries do not prevent their citizens from expressing their views openly. This is the fundamental reason for the strength and stability of their systems. If there is in what is said anything that disgraces our country, then it behooves us to rid ourselves of whatever causes this disgrace rather than prevent talking about it.

What is more, the president's initiative to implement on his own some of the popular wishes--as stated in his aforementioned address--should not be cause to prevent some citizens or citizen groups from presenting their proposals or expressing their wishes to the president.

The linkage between complete withdrawal from the Sinai and the state of emergency declared in the country because of the war with Israel is no longer understandable. If logic requires that a return to a normal situation should not take place until the complete withdrawal is effected, then this logic should have been applied to the relations with Israel which is still occupying our land so that these relations may not be normalized until there is a complete withdrawal.

#### State of Emergency Has Fallen by Force of Constitution

In any case, the state of emergency is considered to have been terminated by the force of the constitution because it is unpermissible to maintain this state after promulgation of the republican decree announcing this termination. Article 148 of the constitution states: "The president of the republic shall declare the state of emergency in the manner demonstrated in the law. This declaration must be presented to the People's Assembly in the next 15 days so that the assembly may make its decision on the declaration. If the People's Assembly is dissolved, the declaration shall be presented to the first meeting of the new assembly. In all cases, declaration of the state of emergency shall be for a limited period that may not be extended without the approval of the People's Assembly."



In view of this article of the constitution, the existing state of emergency is considered void for two reasons:

1. Declaration of the state of emergency is required to take place in the manner demonstrated by the law, namely the state of emergency which law spells out the conditions under which the state of emergency may be declared and the conditions considered necessary for the continuation of this state. These conditions are "the exposure of security or order in the territories of the republic or in an area of the republic to danger, whether because of the eruption of war, the presence of a situation that threatens with the eruption of war, the outbreak of riots at home, the occurrence of general catastrophes or the outbreak of an epidemic."

Are any of these conditions found in Egypt currently to justify the continuation of the state of emergency?

The state of war with Israel has ended and there are no domestic riots, general catastrophes or epidemics. Therefore, continuation of the state of emergency after the peace treaty and the end of the state of war with Israel may be exploited in the disinterest of Egypt and may be interpreted abroad as an extraordinary measure.

2. The constitution stipulates that a state of emergency shall be declared for a definite period. It is acknowledged legally and at the judiciary level that the determination of time is done by setting a date in which a period ends or by accomplishment of the goal for which the period is set.

In view of the fact that the state of emergency existing in Egypt was imposed because of the state of war which erupted between Egypt and Israel, as shown by the date and conditions under which this state was declared, then determination of the duration of this state is linked to the termination of this state of war.

Though the emergency law stipulates that the state of emergency shall be terminate<sup>d</sup> by a presidential decree, such a decree has become something required by the legitimacy of the law so that the state of emergency may be terminated at a set date declared to all. The lack of such a decree despite the disappearance of the constitutional conditions for the presence of the state of emergency does not make the continuation of this state legitimate, considering that this continuation violates the provisions of the law and of the constitution. Rather, this state of emergency is considered as legally terminated.

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EDITORIAL WANTS ETHICS OF DIALOGUE, DEMOCRATIC EXERCISE DEFINED

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 80 p 1

[Editorial by Hamid Zaydan: "Ethics of Dialogue First"]

[Text] A minimum degree of agreement is required between the parties to the dialogue. A minimum degree of mutual respect of opinion is required between the parties to the dialogue.

A minimum degree of coordination in political action generally, in the adoption of fateful decisions and, particularly, in the national issues is required between the parties to the dialogue.

Dialogue is the basis of human relations. It is also the base of the democratic structure. Democracy cannot be established in a society that is not founded on sound human relations. It cannot be established without joint dialogue between the sides engaged in political action, regardless of whether they are sides within the same party or belonging to various parties and of whether they are within the elected parliamentary council or outside it.

I believe that these are scientific rules which we acknowledge, regardless of whether they are pronounced by Harold (Laski), the professor of political science at London University, or by Mansur Hasan, the National Party's official spokesman, in an interview with AL-AHRAM.

In our capacity as a party in the democratic dialogue--and I do not say a party in the political game, the expression used by the National Party's official spokesman--we welcome the dialogue. We also welcome the determination of the minimum points of agreement from which we may initiate joint action to complete the democratic structure domestically and to complete liberation of the national Egyptian and Arab soil.

We have never excluded the dialogue at any moment since the creation of the Socialist Labor Party and until the present.

I can even say that AL-SHA'B is the newspaper that has stepped forth throughout the past months to hold this dialogue and that has not been hampered in

its efforts to continue this mission by the cloud of dust raised over some of the important issues that it has projected.

The misuse by some on the other side of some phrases and expressions that are far from proper in a political action eager for the democratic structure have not prevented us from continuing the dialogue.

The failure of the other side to answer us and the attempts of this side to ignore us have not prevented us from continuing to engage in the dialogue because this failure and disregard are not the ideal means for the exercise of democracy. We have paid no attention and our actions have continued to be clear and frank.

The haughtiness of some on the other side has not prevented us from continuing to engage in the dialogue because haughtiness isolates the haughty, and not us, from the people's masses.

To put it briefly, this means that we must first, and before we define the points of agreement, agree to define the ethics of the joint dialogue and the ethics of the democratic exercise or the ethics of the political game, as Mansur Hasan, I believe, has called them in his interview with AL-AHRAM, citing Harold Laski's opinion. We must agree to define these ethics before we reach a minimum agreement among the players in the political stadium, i.e. among the political organizations.

I do not want, at present, to define these rules and I also do not want, at present, to define the minimum limits of agreement. I have a lot that I can say in this regard. However, I do not want to engage in oneupmanship against anybody. I urge the other side to define for us how far it will go with us in this game for the sake of Egypt and the sake of Egypt's people and not for the sake of building the party in power.

#### Political Words

To conclude the preceding editorial, I will say that the question to which the answer of the minister of information and official spokesman of the National Party has not satisfied me was the question: Does the National Party consider the outcome of the referendum the basis of the rules of the game?

On the occasion of the passage of 40 days on the death of national strugglers Fu'ad al-Jazayirli, a [movie] producer, and Zaki Murad, a lawyer, I greet their memory. They gave their life to the last drop for the sake of Egypt and the Egyptian people's causes and each of them reflected this giving in his own way. Suspension of AL-SHA'B prevented us from paying our regards immediately upon their departure which occurred during the suspension.

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CSO: 4802

**LABOR PARTY OPPOSES U.S. BASES, WATER FOR ISRAEL, ISLAMIC LEAGUE**

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 80 pp 1, 6

[Article by Karam Sinnarah and Sulayman Salih: 'No to Military Bases and Facilities; No to Supplying Nile Water to Jerusalem; It Is not Time for Islamic League']

[Text] The Socialist Labor Party representatives in the People's Assembly have spoken in reply to the government statement. Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the party chairman, has rejected [the idea of] supplying the Nile water to Jerusalem and has underlined the need to abide by the principle of nonalignment.

He has declared that the issue of permitting the United States to establish bases or granting it facilities in Egypt is a serious issue on which the government cannot take a decision without referring to the People's Assembly.

He also declared [the party's] determination to preserve and bolster the entity of the Arab League and has said that the Islamic league is an idea whose time has not come yet.

Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, the party's assistant secretary, replied to the government statement in the health, education and rural electrification sectors and demanded the formation of a committee to discuss fixing the prices of drugs so as to curb the rise in these prices.

Sayyid Rustum, member of the party's Parliamentary Committee, has brought up the issue of democracy and has objected to the classification of bread into three kinds. In his reply to the government statement, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the Labor Party chairman and the opposition leader, has touched off a number of important issues in the People's Assembly. He has declared the Labor Party's opposition to the presence of military bases in Egypt, to supplying the Nile water to Jerusalem and to the idea of establishing a new league for the Arab and Islamic nations.

Ibrahim Shukri has said that the issue of permitting the United States to establish bases or of granting it facilities in Egypt is a serious issue on which the government cannot make a decision without referring to the People's

Assembly. Moreover, permitting such a thing is considered a deviation from the principle of nonalignment adopted by Egypt.

He pointed out that the Assembly has learned nothing about this issue except through the foreign news services. He said that a secret session could have been held by the Assembly and attended by the minister of defense. But to hear of this issue from the news services is something that gives the enemies of Egypt the opportunity to say that Egypt orbits in the sphere of the United States.

#### Islamic League Is Idea for Which Time Has not Come Yet

As for the contents of the government statement regarding the Arab policy and the differences existing among the Arab states currently, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri has declared the opposition's support for what the statement says in regard to preserving and bolstering the entity of the Arab League, adding: However, the statement then proceeds to discuss the failure of the Arab League and the need to establish a new league for the Arab and Islamic peoples. Shukri said: We object to tackling issues in this manner. The government cannot say that it wants to preserve the entity of the Arab League and then call for establishing a new league. He pointed out that the Labor Party believes that the time for this idea has not come yet, that the current Arab differences are temporary and that the Arab line must regain its unity.

#### We Reject Supplying Nile Water to Jerusalem

Ibrahim Shukri has objected to the question of supplying the Nile water to Jerusalem, saying that such a step will have a negative impact on the African countries participating with us in the Nile water agreement. He said that we are eager for our relations with these countries, especially Sudan where there is general resentment over this decision. Engineer Ibrahim Shukri almost withdrew from the hall as a result of the interruptions by the minister of state for People's Assembly affairs and by members of the National Party on the pretext that this issue is not included in the government statement. However, the Assembly speaker asked the members to keep quiet and to let the opposition leader complete his address.

#### Egyptian-Sudanese Relations

The party chairman has also criticized the government statement for failing to make any reference to Egypt's relations with Sudan, saying that if the government has nothing new on this issue, then the People's Assembly must tackle the matters that can bring the government out [of its silence]. He has declared that the opposition cannot accept the statement's failure to make any reference to Sudan with which we have had strong and genuine relations with which we must be concerned.



## **Arab Solidarity Is Necessary**

Ibrahim Shukri has demanded that the strongest efforts be exerted to restore Arab solidarity, saying that Egypt shoulders a big role in achieving this goal, that the world respects only strong blocs now and that the major powers cannot respect the Arab states while they remain divided.

## **Faulty Government View of Health and Education**

Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, the Labor Party's assistant secretary and its youth secretary, has made several observations on the government statement in the sectors of health, education, rural electrification and rural water supply. He has criticized the statement because it considers health and education a part of the services. Al-Hadidi has said that this is a faulty view because health and education are considered investment and production sectors.

Dr al-Hadidi has proposed that control of the health sector be entrusted to the various governorates concerned because the minister of health is pre occupied with his responsibilities of planning at the national level.

## **Faltering Negotiations Will Expose Israel's Intentions**

Sayyid Rustum, from the Labor Party, also spoke at the session, saying that the faltering self-rule negotiations show Israel's aggressive intentions and expansionist ambitions which have been made evident by the construction of settlements. He has demanded that the relations with Israel not be normalized until Israel recognizes the Palestinians' right to self-determination and until it withdraws completely from the occupied territories.

Sayyid Rustum also objected to what the government statement says about classifying bread into three kinds and demanded that the bread quality be improved and that a firm decision be taken in regard to law No 83.

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SHUKRI CONCERNED WITH U.S. BASES, LUKEWARM RELATIONS WITH SUDAN

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 80 p 2

[Article: "Egypt Without Arabs Is Less Strong; Concern Over Our Lukewarm Relations With Sudan"]

[Text] Engineer Ibrahim Shukri has said: Egypt without the Arabs is less strong and the Arabs with Egypt are a force. In the party's weekly colloquium, Shukri has said that conveying the Nile water outside the Egyptian territories is something that must be preceded by studies and agreements with the other countries. He has also asserted that the party will take legal steps against the Radio and Television Authority that has failed to implement so far the decision to grant the political parties equal opportunities [time] in its programs.

Ibrahim Shukri has also said: Our future lies in coordination, solidarity and integration with Sudan. We are the party most concerned with the tepidity that has developed in the relations between the two countries.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri opened his address by saying: Big difficulties are still obstructing the activities of the Socialist Labor Party which has no offices in the governorates because the Socialist Union had distributed its previous offices to the three parties.

Colleague Sayyid Rustum brought up this issue at the People's Assembly when he talked about democracy during his discussion of the government statement. But Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Radwan, the Assembly's deputy speaker who was heading the session, told Rustum: "Stick to the subject," as if Sayyid Rustum deviated from the issue of democracy when he demanded that offices be made available to the party. Without such offices, the other opinion cannot express itself must be made available in all the information media. I say this because there is a law that governs the public radio and television authorities--a law on which we agreed in the People's Assembly--and that gives the political parties equal opportunities to express their opinion on radio and television. This is something that has not materialized yet and we are about to embark on legal steps against this authority.

He added: I have spoken at length in the People's Assembly about the democracy of the political decision but the national press has published only a little of what I have said and has disregarded most of the issues that I have brought up, especially the issue of supplying the Nile water to Jerusalem. I submitted a notification request at the People's Assembly more than 2 weeks ago but this issue has not been included in the Assembly agenda yet. It has been said that the Assembly will discuss it after debating the government statement. However, I have brought up the issue in my reply to the government statement and have pointed out the danger of this trend. The Nile water is not an issue on which a decision can be made without debate. The Nile does not belong to us alone. There are agreements that regulate the utilization of its waters and in which several parties are involved. These agreements include the 1929 agreement, called the Muhammad Mahmud-Henderson agreement, which stipulates that no country in the Nile basin may set up projects affecting the river water without the agreement of all the countries of this basin. There is also the 1956 agreement between Egypt and Sudan which provides for dividing the Nile water between the two countries and which stipulates that the projects set up after this date shall be divided between Egypt and Sudan according to certain percentages. Therefore, the talk about conveying the Nile water outside the Egyptian territories is no simple matter. It must be preceded by studies and agreements with other countries.

Ibrahim Shukri further said: It is surprising that the talk about the Nile water is brought up at a time when the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations are stumbling and when Begin declares that Jerusalem cannot become Arab again and refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-rule.

I have said this at the People's Assembly. I have also brought up what has been said about granting the U.S. forces military facilities to defend some Arab countries. Whether what has been given to the U.S. forces is facilities or bases, the issue must be debated at the People's Assembly, even if in a closed session, so that all the Assembly members may learn the truth of the matter, may approve it and may be able to defend it before the people.

But for the national press to publish reports about U.S. military bases designed for the purpose without our knowing anything about the matter is something that is incompatible with democracy.

I have also spoken about the call for the creation of a league for the Arab and Islamic nations and said that Egypt with the Arabs is a force and the Arabs with Egypt are a force.

The party chairman has further said: We cling to Arab solidarity so that we may turn the Arab world into a considerable power. When we speak about Arab solidarity, we give the fraternal Sudan a distinguished place. The Socialist Labor Party members are the people who believe most strongly that our future lies in coordination, solidarity and integration with Sudan. Therefore, we are the party most concerned with the tepidity that has developed in the relations between our two countries.

He added: Though some say that this year's budget is the first budget liberated from Arab aid, I do not agree with them. This budget includes resources that have been listed for the first time, such as the remittances sent by Egyptians working abroad to their families and ranging from 1.5 billion to 2 billion pounds.

There is no doubt that these savings [remittances] have their weight in our trade balance. They are not contributions but the outcome of a mutual benefit. The Arab countries have set up projects and our sons abroad have collected wages. Therefore, the estrangement between us and the Arab world is not in the interest of either side.

I have heard from some members of the People's Assembly that a number of citrus fruit [packaging plants] in al-Buhayrah Governorate have stopped operating because a part of our exports to the Arab countries has been stopped, because the western countries cannot absorb more than we are already exporting to them and because the Soviet Union has stopped importing. The Arab world is supposed to be our exportation sphere.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri went on to say: The People's Assembly approved the Egyptian-Israeli agreements after Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of foreign affairs, had explained that normalization of the Egyptian-Israeli relations and solving the Palestinian issue are inseparable and that within a year, ending on 25 January, all the pending problems will have been solved and the other Palestinian sides and Jordan will have joined the negotiations. But we see today that we have achieved nothing and that the Israelis still insist that the West Bank of Palestine is Jewish land since ancient times.

#### Socialist Prosecutor

Fu'ad Nushi, the party's information secretary, had opened the colloquium with an address in which he said: Perhaps you have read the report published by AL-AKHBAR today to the effect that the committee formed under the chairmanship of Dr Sufi Abu-Talib has nearly completed the socialist prosecutor bill which will give the socialist prosecutor the power to refer defendants to the Values Court which has the power to deny any citizen his political rights.

The Socialist Labor Party has declared in its program that it rejects the mere idea of the presence of the position of socialist prosecutor. We do not condone judiciary duality and we do not agree to have any individual, whoever he may be, given a power above that of the judiciary authority.

Lawyer Rif'at al-Shahawi, the party's secretary general, concluded the colloquium with a greeting to the birthday of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. He said: I cannot but stand before 'Abd-al-Nasir's history and struggle with head bowed for the accomplishments that he realized for Egypt and the Arab world. He was the first ruler of Egyptian blood and regardless of what has been said about mistakes committed during his reign,

he was able to change the map of the political life not only in Egypt but also in the Arab world, Africa and Asia. His struggle against colonialism has been a model followed by all patriotic politicians in the third world countries.

Al-Shahawi also said: We truly condemn the Soviet intervention in the affairs of these Muslim people [presumably meaning Afghanistan].

But this should not let us forget our tragedy which is represented in the continued Israeli occupation of the territories of three Arab countries, in addition to Jerusalem.

The clamor should also not make us forget our economic problems and the violations committed against democracy daily. The People's Assembly has convened quickly to discuss the Afghani people's issue whereas it had failed to discuss the Egyptian budget throughout a period of 3 months. In any democratic country, such a failure is enough to ouster the government.

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SHUKRI OPPOSES SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR BILL

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 80 p 3

[Article by Ibrahim Shukri: "Socialist Prosecutor ~~Law~~ Is Step Backward"]

[Text] I am writing these words on Saturday while on my way to Asyut. I have read today's papers and my attention has been drawn by a report on the socialist prosecutor law and another report on curtailing the haphazardly rise in prices. I wish I could write on our opinion regarding the issue of prices. The government wants to raise the prices of few commodities, mostly luxury commodities and a few essential commodities. But the factories, most of them public sector factories, and most merchants and owners of the means of transportation have hastened to raise the prices and the matter has become a race to reap exaggerated profits at the expense of the people's masses.

However, I have found myself compelled to write about the powers of this so-called position of public prosecutor because I find what has been published about these powers a threat to the freedom of expression and because it bodes a return to the eras of political ostracism which the May revolution has had the credit for eliminating.

The summary of the public socialist prosecutor law published by AL-AHRAM says that there will be no duality of jurisdiction and that the socialist prosecutor will have nothing to do with criminal or administrative investigations. The summary then brings us the good news that the prosecutor's task will be political. The summary then says:

"The bill also stipulates that if the public prosecutor's investigation proves any charges, then the defendant shall be referred to the Values Court and the court will impose on the defendant penalties in the form of "measures" instead of fines, i.e. the defendant may, for example, be deprived of his political rights or denied the right to nominate himself for election to the popular councils or to elected unions."

The reporter, i.e. AL-AHRAM reporter, has learned that the inspection or arrest activities carried out by the socialist prosecutor will not be done without permission from the chairman of the Values Court and that the Values Court will be comprised of two elements, one judiciary and the other a member of the People's Assembly.



I have sought to report what has been published verbatim so that we may realize the dimensions of this bill which we hasten to reject completely. We have objected to the position of the public prosecutor as of the first day and we have included in the party program a provision calling for abolishing this position.

The objection of judges and counselors has been that there is a kind of duality of jurisdiction and that the general law can tackle the issue of establishing all the legal rules governing all principles of the constitution. However, we find ourselves facing a new system talking about a values court formed of members of the People's Assembly and of a judge that rules to deny people of their political rights and considers this a mere measure.

Into what pitfall are we sliding? The legislative council members sit in the place of judges! And to try whom? To try their political opponents and sentence them to the denial of their political rights and their right to nominate themselves for elected parliamentary and unionist councils.

What makes the matter clear is that the ruling party wants to recruit the proposed bill concerning the socialist prosecutor's powers to reach certain results insofar as popular representation is concerned. This means that the ruling party has found nothing wrong or embarrassing in having the socialist prosecutor take part in the meeting of the Democratic National Party's Political Bureau which convened in Aswan under the chairmanship of President al-Sadat. The papers published reports of the meeting at the time.

There is no objection to the socialist prosecutor meeting his excellency the president in the company of the minister of justice or of the prime minister. But to have the socialist prosecutor attend the meeting of the Political Bureau of any party is something to which we object.

It is as if the National Party has not been content with the means it used to interfere in the previous elections and has wanted to add a legal means with which to prevent its rivals--a means represented in this court in which its members participate and in these powers that give the court the right to impose political ostracism.

By the way, the minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs has demanded that I provide the proof of interference in the last elections and I in my turn refer him to the report published by a magazine issued by the biggest Egyptian press establishment, namely AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH [International Politics], on page 199 of this month's edition--a report citing the former U.S. ambassador who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Egyptian University and who noted the governmental interference in the last elections of the People's Assembly. I cite this testimony because we still give foreign testimony greater credit and because the minister has not been convinced by what AL-SHA'B published on this issue throughout several weeks.

Let me return to the talk about this law and this system of the Values Court to defy those concerned to cite the presence of a similar system in any civilized country.

I urge all the intellectuals, the professional and labor unions and especially the Lawyers Union to discuss this bill for which approval is being sought. Everyone with an opinion must express his opinion.

Practical application of the socialist prosecutor's right to object to candidates nominated for the election of the labor unions and federations has proven that the general law can fully perform its role in keeping out any elements convicted by the courts. The judiciary have accepted the appeals of all those who were kept out of the elections [by the socialist prosecutor] and have not turned down any, except for a few that can be counted on the fingers of one hand and against whom there have been standing convictions.

This law with its values court is a stab in the heart of democracy, of free opinion, of the system of parties and of equal chances to all the parties. It is a step back from the May revolution principles. I beg President al-Sadat to discuss it with the government before it is presented to the People's Assembly. If approved under these conditions, this law will lead us away from the world community of the western countries, including those that believe in democratic socialism, that are eager for democracy.

Political ostracism is harder than any other punishment, even a prison term punishment. Therefore, we should not view political ostracism as a measure. It may be a measure in the view of some people. But those who believe that God, may He be praised, created man and distinguished him with intellect and opinion find such ostracism a crime committed against the Egyptian citizen whom we want a citizen with free opinion and not one governed by this innovation called a values court under which the judges try their rivals. God is great and long live the people.

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## SUPPLYING NILE WATER TO JERUSALEM VIEWED AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jan 80 pp 3, 10

[Article by Dr Muhammad 'Asfur al-Muhami: "Does Any State Authority Have Power to Dispose of Nile Water for Others"]

[Text] In its edition of 16 December 1979, OCTOBER magazine published a report under a broad bannerline saying: President al-Sadat orders that a thorough study be conducted on conveying the Nile water to the city of Jerusalem. It is the new Zanzam project.

In its preceding edition, AL-SHA'B published an opinion by the esteemed Dr Wahid Ra'fat expressing opposition to the idea of conveying the Nile water to Jerusalem for national reasons and considerations and because of the political dangers generated by the implementation of a project not preceded by special technical studies.

I would like to add to this opinion something connected with legal consideration fundamentally, namely: To what degree can this project be considered compatible with the provisions of the law?

What I imagine is that the project contains violations of the provisions of the international and local laws, detailed as follows:

It is an acknowledged fact that the Nile River is an international river because it runs through the territories of more than one state. Consequently, the countries through whose territories the river runs make use of this river and of its waters because it is considered the common property of these countries. However, making use of this water is not a matter decided upon by the implied absolute power of each state. This water is used in accordance with controls and rules that are often included in water agreements, which are international treaties. These controls and rules may be established as a result of application [al-sarf], considering that the binding rules are generated at times by the stability of action or by forcing the action to take a certain course to produce long-range benefits. Refraining of the state containing the source of the river from actions liable to obstruct or prevent the flow of the river water to the other countries is something that

is considered within this sphere of application. It may be even said that the water projects set up by the state containing the source may not do injustice to the other countries. What applies to the state containing the source applies, and more strongly, to the other countries. The country with the river mouth enjoys no greater freedom in exploiting the river water, unless it is in streamlining the method of exploitation itself so that no part of the water flowing into or running through this country may be wasted. However, it is obvious that such streamlining does not undermine the rights of the countries upriver.

The fact is that the common ownership of an international river—ownership acknowledged for the countries through which the river runs—is the element that requires these countries to agree among themselves to coordinate and harmonize the water projects they set up on the river, whether to control its water or to regulate the way in which this water is used. Therefore, none of these states may take a separate decision in this regard.

If this is the rule that should be observed legally and by convention for the projects that one of the countries involved sets up to enhance exploitation of the water of an international river, then this rule must be observed more closely when one of these countries wants to share the water with another country through which the river does not run and which is even located in another continent.

This means simply that Egypt, in its position as one of the countries through which the river runs and in which it terminates, may not act separately on a matter that pertains to the river water in order to supply this water to another country not located along the river course. Any independent action of the sort without consultation with the other countries is in violation of the provisions of the international law.

Disposing of the Nile water in the interest of another country not only constitutes a violation of the law and of international convention but also runs counter to the supreme national interests and violates the constitution.

At the national level:

1. It does not make sound politics to even think of supplying the Nile water to any country—regardless of this country's relations with us—when the green area of Egypt is so small in comparison to the vast desert areas that comprise the larger part of the country and when we have this fearful population growth. Jerusalem is not in a barren desert that receives no drop of water so that we may supply the Nile water to it to quench the thirst of the believers, be they Muslim, Christian or Jewish. If the problem is one of supplying the pilgrims with water, then the matter requires no more than sending bottles of water free of charge.

2. Moreover, if we may express the eagerness to give priority to our own interests in a matter that is to us a matter of life and death and of thirst



and drought, the project poses the biggest dangers to our national interests and to the interests of our Arab brothers because every drop of the Nile water reaching the Negev desert will attract an Israeli settler until the land of Israel is overcrowded with immigrants. Israel will then find in this a justification for the well-known German theory of the vital sphere--a theory which means expansion and invasion.

3. Added to all this is the fact that the project will realize practically one aspect of the dreams of the expansionist greater Israel whose borders reach the Nile. What Israel has failed to achieve militarily, namely reach the Nile, will be realized for it in an easy manner by having the Nile reach Israel's territories. The sole goal that the greater Israel seeks from reaching the Nile is to find a source to revive its barren land.

4. Finally, if this project is implemented, it will lead us to a deadend. If it becomes evident to us afterwards that our need for the Nile water is urgent--and this is certain--we will not be able to back down because we will have given, through tolerance, another party a right which this party will defend with the force of arms. We will have thus created a cause of future conflict with a state that is skillful in expanding and usurping what belongs rightfully to others. This state's intransigent position on the settlements in the occupied territories and on not recognizing the right of the Palestinians to have their own state is well-known to the entire world.

Constitutionally, the project in itself and announcement of the project in the manner in which it has been announced violate the constitution:

A. The project in itself violates the constitution because it means disposing of the Nile River water by grant or contribution. This action means in fact disposing of Egypt's life, tampering with the river's geography and undermining our sovereignty rights--considering our special conditions with Israel--and even means undermining the Egyptian people's right to life. Herodotus' words that Egypt is the gift of the Nile are not an exaggeration. The Nile water is Egypt's life and ceding a part of these waters--regardless of the form or justifications of the ceding--means ceding a part of Egypt's life. No government authority, and not even all the government authorities together, have the right to cede such a thing. Egypt's life is more precious and comes before its sovereignty--sovereignty that cannot be ceded. These words should not be understood metaphorically because the Nile water means the life of all the Egyptian people in the past, the present and the future. We should also keep in mind that the proposed project leads--in light of our relations with Israel and of Israel's expansionist ambitions that seek to reach the Nile water--in fact to a kind of ceding regional sovereignty over a most important element connected with the life of the Egyptian people on their land. Such a ceding is beyond any power stipulated by the constitution.

In addition to the above, the action planned to be taken constitutes in fact a contribution. The Nile water is a public property owned by the people and the quality of its being a public interest cannot disappear so that the water may become state property of which the state can dispose. It is an acknowledged principle that public property cannot be the subject of deals or disposal. Moreover, such property may not at all be the subject of gifts or contribution.



B. In addition to the fact that the project violates the constitution by its very nature, the manner in which this project has been announced also violates the constitution because it seems as if the head of state has made the decision independently and without any participation by the cabinet which shares with him the executive powers in accordance with article 128 of the constitution which stipulates that the president of the republic chart the general policy of the state in participation with the Council of Ministers. Moreover, it seems that the issue of this project has never been presented to the People's Assembly. Even if, for the sake of argument, the project can be considered one of the results of the peace treaty or a project connected with this treaty in any way, it should have been presented to the People's Assembly in accordance with the second paragraph of article 151 of the constitution which states: "Peace, alliance, trade and shipping treaties and all treaties resulting in adjusting the state territories, treaties connected with sovereignty rights and treaties requiring the state treasury to incur expenses beyond those listed in the budget must be approved by the People's Assembly."

We have already demonstrated how the proposed project leads to adjusting [words dropped in printing].

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END

**SELECTIVE LIST OF JPRS SERIAL REPORTS**

**NEAR EAST AND AFRICA SERIAL REPORTS**

**NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT**  
**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT**

**WORLDWIDE SERIAL REPORTS**

**WORLDWIDE REPORT: Environmental Quality**  
**WORLDWIDE REPORT: Epidemiology**  
**WORLDWIDE REPORT: Law of the Sea**  
**WORLDWIDE REPORT: Nuclear Development and Proliferation**  
**WORLDWIDE REPORT: Telecommunications Policy, Research and Development**

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